Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-073
Monday
15 April 1996

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International Affairs: Russia, Spain Refuse To Sign Pelindaba Treaty

BR1204121796 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 12 Apr 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Russia and Spain Refuse To Sign African Denuclearization Treaty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — Over 40 African countries signed the so-called Pelindaba Treaty in Cairo yesterday, which declares the continent an area free from nuclear weapons. Four of the powers possessing declared nuclear arsenals (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and China) also signed protocols whereby they pledge not to use nuclear force in Africa or to threaten its use, but Russia did not do so. Spain, which had also been invited to sign a protocol, refused to sign it for the present. Its accession could imply acceptance of the African Atomic Energy Commission's inspections in the Canary Islands.

A Spanish Foreign Ministry spokesman specified yesterday that the treaty still presents "legal and political complications," and therefore needs to be developed and clarified. Moreover, the fact that it must be ratified by the Spanish Parliament, which has just been formed following the election and that the new government has not yet been formed has also prompted the Foreign Ministry to reject Spanish accession for the present.

For its part, the Russian refusal is based on the presence of a U.S. military base on the island of Diego Garcia (in the center of the Indian Ocean, 3,600 km to the east of the coast of Africa), although Moscow does not rule out signing the treaty in the future, either.

Paris also acceded to the same protocol covering Madrid because of its presence in African territories. In France's case, these are the Reunion archipelago and the island of Mayotte, in the Indian Ocean.

Morocco, which withdrew from the OAU in 1985, following the latter's recognition of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, signed, like Algeria, the Pelindaba Treaty, which owes its name to the South African city where the negotiations on the continent's nuclear disarmament were concluded in 1995 after 31 years of talks. South Africa unblocked the agreement by dismantling its six atomic bombs in 1991. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak called for the conclusion of a similar treaty in the Near East, which would include Israel.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab League To Meet 17 Apr To Discuss Israeli Attacks

NC1404114496 Cairo MENA in English 1111 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA) — The Arab League Council is to hold an emergency meeting on Wednesday [17 April] at the foreign minister's level to deal with Israel's wide-scale attack on Lebanon. The meeting will take place at Lebanon's request.

Lebanon yesterday presented a demand to the league Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid for holding an emergency meeting to discuss Israeli attacks on its territory.

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab League Chief Meets With Lebanon's al-Hariri

NC1404104996 Cairo MENA in English 1023 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA) — Visiting Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today conferred with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on the latest developments in southern Lebanon.

Emerging from the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid made it clear that the league will make a drive to face up to those developments. The drive will be discussed during the league council's meeting to open on Wednesday, he said.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Council of Ministers Issues Statement on Lebanon Attacks

JN1304162096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers met in the city of Jericho today, denounced the new Israeli aggression against Lebanon, and announced its total and absolute solidarity with the Lebanese Arab people. The Council of Ministers had held its weekly meeting in the city of Jericho today under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat and issued a statement at the end of the meeting. Following is the statement of the Council of Ministers read by Presidency Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Rahim recording] The Council of Ministers of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] held its weekly meeting at the Presidential Office in Jericho this morning under the chairmanship of brother President

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Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The Council discussed several topics listed on its agenda. At the beginning of the meeting, the Council followed with deep concern the Israeli aggression against Lebanese cities, villages, and civilian areas—an aggression which claimed the lives of scores of innocent citizens.

The Council of Ministers denounced the aggression as a threat to total peace in the region and called for an immediate halt to the operations. The Council also stressed its strong solidarity with the fraternal Lebanese people, who are standing fast and are determined to remove occupation from their territories.

The president then briefed the Council of Ministers on the results of the donor countries' conference in Brussels last week. The president asserted that the results were disappointing and that the pressures put on the conference and the conferees exposed the conference of having abandoned its responsibilities toward the peace process, as well as its pledges during the Sharm al-Shaykh conference and the Follow-Up Committee meeting in Washington that it would extend material support to the Palestinian people to enable them to face the deteriorating economic situation caused by the siege imposed by Israel.

The president said: The meeting was extraordinary rather than periodic or traditional. The meeting was aimed at immediately securing the amounts of money needed to create job opportunities for Palestinian workers, who sustained damage as a result of the policy of siege and collective punishment. These workers number approximately 80,000.

The president also said that the conference was asked to cover the new PNA's budget deficit, which doubled because of the deteriorating situation.

Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi then presented a report on this issue. He said that during the meetings of their committees, the donor countries decided to meet the pledges they made in Paris by financing the infrastructure projects, which require approximately $650 million, and by repaying the $500 million borrowed in 1994 and 1995. It was decided that this amount of money should be repaid as soon as possible to carry out the infrastructure projects, which will create job opportunities and encourage the private sector to start investment.

During the meeting, the brother cabinet members raised the following question: If Israel is enforcing a blockade against us under flimsy pretexts, what are the excuses for the siege clamped on us by donor nations? For the peace process requires all to honor their commitments. The Palestinian side has honored its commitments, whereas the Israelis and donor nations have so far evaded theirs. The question that we raise at present is the following: How long shall we continue to honor our commitments while others fail to honor theirs? If the world is interested in ensuring the election win of the Labor Party and Peres in the forthcoming elections, it must also be concerned about the success of the National Authority, the principal partner in the peace process.

His excellency the president informed the Council of Ministers that the Israeli Government is declaring war against Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad, when, as a matter of fact, it is waging war against the PNA and the Palestinian people. All these practices will only foster other options.

His excellency the president added: We have informed all parties that we called the Palestine National Council [PNC] into session. Nonetheless, given this climate of violations and evasion of commitments, nobody knows what its decision will be. The recent statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq were not a slip of the tongue. As a matter of fact, they betray certain intentions and a serious plan. The Council of Ministers was unanimous that it will fight this plan and these intentions with all our people's strength and determination. For our people want to achieve national independence. They are determined to achieve this goal no matter what.

His excellency the president said: We are experiencing tough circumstances. Nonetheless, we are capable of coping with them. For we are a people known for steadfastness, determination, and creativity. We will forge ahead in our efforts to implement the plan we have drawn up regarding the creation of 50,000 jobs for six months. This will be accomplished within the next few months. We made available the necessary funds for this. We have also drawn up a plan to revitalize suspended projects, such as municipal, road, sewage, and maintenance projects. Additionally, we will encourage the private sector to increase its projects. We will also provide raw materials for this purpose.

His excellency the president said: Whoever thinks that he can bring us to our knees is definitely nursing delusions. For we have the ability and expertise that enable us to cope with these tough circumstances. Since the start of the peace process, we have been perfectly aware that we are engaged in a struggle in which there will be numerous challenges, difficulties, and obstacles. However, we must triumph to achieve our national goals.

His excellency the president informed the Council of Ministers that he extended invitations for a national dialogue. He asked the factions invited to this dialogue

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to demonstrate further firmness and decisiveness in the face of the forces that are trying to destroy our accomplishments and dreams.

His excellency the president briefed the Council of Ministers on the stable security situation [words indistinct] the explosion at a Jerusalem hotel [words indistinct], based on the information available to us, raises questions about the intentions of the extremist Israeli right wing to make new moves, which confirms its determination to destroy the peace process, which it firmly believes will inevitably lead to the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

Moreover, I would like to say that the Council of Ministers unanimously decided to build a presidential office and an annex designed to serve as a guest house in Bethlehem. The Municipality of Bethlehem offered six donums of land near al-Muqata'ah for this purpose. Efforts to build this office and this annex will begin immediately.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat presented a detailed report on the work of the Ministerial Committee for Rural Development, which consists of officials from the Ministries of Local Government, Finance, Health, Public Works, Education, and Agriculture. The Council of Ministers also approved Dr. 'Urayqat's recommendation to add the Ministries of Social Affairs, Youth and Sports, Labor, and Post and Telecommunications to this committee. It also discussed some other administrative issues related to good performance and adopted the appropriate decisions regarding them. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Denounces Israeli Attacks Against Lebanon

JN1404110296 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Apr 96

['Adil al-Za'nun report from Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat strongly denounced the Israeli attacks against Lebanon. In statements he made to journalists while attending the Easter celebrations in the Greek Orthodox Church in Gaza today, 'Arafat said: Our Council of Ministers stated that we strongly, and totally, denounce these attacks. We also stand by our Lebanese brothers in the face of the events confronting them.

'Arafat said: The Israeli attacks against Lebanon will undoubtedly affect the peace process. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas, Islamic Jihad Denounce Israeli 'Aggression'

JN1404161696 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad Movement issued a statement in which they declared their total solidarity with the Lebanese resistance and people. They also hailed the steadfastness and bravery of our people in Lebanon and appealed to the masses of the Arab and Islamic nations everywhere to declare their solidarity with the resistance and to denounce the enemy's all-out war of annihilation against the Lebanese people.

The two movements asserted that the Zionist aggression will not stop resistance or jihad, that the heroic mujahidin in Lebanon and Palestine are able to teach the enemy an unforgettable lesson, and that the martyrdom-seeking heroes will strike deep inside the Zionist entity.

Fatah-the Uprising also issued a statement in which it said that these barbaric aggressions against Lebanon are just one of the results of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit — the summit of organized terrorism against our people, our nation, and the world. The movement urged the masses of our nation and its active forces to use their energy and capabilities to defend Lebanon and its people and to seriously and effectively counter the U.S. and Zionist program that targets our Arab homeland and our Arab nation.

Palestinian Affairs: PFLP Denounces 'Zionist Terrorism' Against Lebanon

JN1404165196 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An official spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] said in a statement that the Zionist aggression against Lebanon reveals the nature of the ugly Zionist terrorism, as well as the absolute U.S. support for Zionist terrorism and aggression.

The PFLP spokesman called for an urgent Arab summit to discuss the overall dangerous situation. He also urged popular and official Arab and international circles to voice their strongest condemnation of the aggression and express their solidarity with the Lebanese people.

Palestinian Affairs: Ministry Links Attacks, Siege to Election Campaign

JN1404140896 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Information Ministry said the Israeli occupation forces' aggression against

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Lebanon and the imposition of military siege on Palestine aim, in the first place, to realize election gains.

In a statement, the ministry said the Israeli Government lost much of its weights due to its hesitant position on the peace process, and is trying through the aggression against Lebanon and the imposition of military siege to make up for the popularity it recently lost.

Palestinian Affairs: Jericho Declared Closed Military Zone 12 Apr

TA1204150796 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jericho has been declared a closed military zone as of this afternoon, and the entry of Israelis into the city has been forbidden on security grounds until further notice.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Threatens 'To Confront' Hamas on Jordan's Territory

MM1504104096 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Salih Qallab: "'Arafat Hints at Confronting Hamas Inside Jordan"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has threatened that he could be forced to confront the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on Jordanian territory unless Hamas stops its activities against the Palestinian National Authority — activities launched from Jordanian territory.

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, 'Arafat's threat was conveyed to Ziyad al-Majali, Jordan's representative to the Palestinian Authority, who was summoned to a meeting in Ramallah the day before yesterday in the wake of his ['Arafat's] accusation, made before Palestinian Legislative Council members, that Jordan is sheltering Hamas leaders. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Denies Existence of Secret Document Against PNA

JN1204142696 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, denied accusations by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], that Hamas has a secret document which declares war against the authority. Hamas also denied that confessions were obtained from prisoners under torture in PNA jails. AL-DUSTUR received by fax a copy of a statement by an official Hamas source, which says: "Hamas movement confirms to our Palestinian people and Islamic nation that its jihad is directed against the Zionist occupation and that, so far, it has not responded to the authority's practices and its repeated provocations."

Palestinian Affairs: 'Over 100' Islamic Activists Released After Interrogation

TA1404083996 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Apr 96 p A10

[Report by Sami Sokol and 'Amira Hess]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Several dozen Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from Gaza, who were held for questioning some four weeks ago, were released over the past several days. Among the people released is the head of the Islamic University student council who was arrested before the 25 February terror attacks, a university guard who was arrested when the campus was raided, and several professors. [passage omitted]

No official statements were made in the wake of the release. According to senior Palestinian security personnel, no sweeping decision has been made to release the detainees. The persons who were released were found not to have connections with the planners of the attacks or with Hamas' military arm. More are expected to be released in the coming days. Hamas sources estimate that some 1,000 of its and Islamic Jihad's activists are currently held in detention in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 14 April reports that "the Palestinian Authority has released over 100 Islamic militants arrested in raids following the suicide attacks inside Israel. The authority's Attorney General Khalid al-Qidrah said that those released were not involved in any illegal activity against the Authority or national security. Al-Qidrah said more suspected activists would be released, but did not give any details."]

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Egypt

Egypt: Lebanese PM al-Hariri Arrives in Cairo

NC1404082296 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0750 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri arrived in Cairo this morning for a few hour visit to Egypt during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Lebanese prime minister was met at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri.

Egypt: Lebanon's al-Hariri Briefs Mubarak, Comments

NC1404111996 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1030 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak was briefed today by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the latest developments in southern Lebanon.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri announced this following an meeting with President Mubarak. He said his briefing included contained Lebanon's request that President Mubarak intervene through his and Egypt's clout in Arab, regional, and international arenas to stop the ongoing fighting in Lebanon. He added: From our point of view, the current fighting is displacing civilians, destroying houses, and enlarging the cycle of violence without solving the problem.

Al-Hariri was asked on the resumption of Israeli bombardment of Lebanon today and on Lebanon's next move. He replied: We have lodged a complaint with the Security Council. I believe that the Security Council will convene tomorrow "Monday" [15 April] to discuss the matter. We also submitted a complaint to the Arab League Council to demand an immediate halt to the fighting.

Al-Hariri noted that the current cycle of violence is not new and that it has existed since 1978. It will lead nowhere, he added.

Al-Hariri emphasized that Israel's action and what is now taking place on Lebanese soil will not affect or destroy Hizballah. He noted that security will not come about by more violence. The solution, he added, has to be a political one, not a military one because military means have been tried for a long time and provided no result.

Al-Hariri was asked another question on the French role and the United States' announcement that it will use a veto at the Security Council. He said he will leave Cairo for France for talks with French President Jacques Chirac.

As for the United States' announcement, he added, it has agreed on a Security Council session. So we cannot anticipate events and define the U.S. stand on a resolution that will be passed by the Security Council.

Al-Hariri said: As a Lebanese state, we have friends worldwide. We have contacted them in an attempt to stop the ongoing carnage in Lebanese territories that will lead nowhere.

On Syria's position toward current developments in Lebanon, the Lebanese prime minister said: I was in Syria yesterday. We discussed the current situation. Everybody understands that things should not continue like this; they all know that the continuation of this situation will not serve security in northern Israel and will not serve the peace process in its entirety.

Al-Hariri said his country is trying through diplomatic contacts to explain its position to the world; namely, that the current violence will produce no results, will destroy Lebanon's infrastructure, and will kill civilians. Hizballah will not be affected by this; on the contrary, we think it will become stronger.

Al-Hariri said a cease-fire must be achieved. He said violence is not the way to solve the problem.

On Israel's allegations that the Lebanese Government can control Hizballah's operations, al-Hariri said: We have repeatedly said that irrespective of our opinion of Hizballah, its past, and its political orientation, the party represents the resistance against the Israeli occupation.

He added: Israel is now asking us to resist these people; that is, to have a clash with them when Israel is still occupying part of the Lebanese territory.

He went on: We as a government cannot possibly do this; I cannot do it, and no one else can do it. I am not being stubborn, but this cannot practically happen.

The Lebanese prime minister said no country in the world with part of its territory under occupation and with a portion of its people resisting this occupation can clash with the resistance men, even if its opinion is different than theirs.

He said Hizballah has members in the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and these deputies always oppose the government. We do not agree with them politically; we have different views and inclinations, but they are resisting the Israeli occupation, he said.

Al-Hariri asked: Can we clash with Hizballah today? He answered: This would mean that we are helping Israel occupy part of our land.

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If Hizballah is a problem, he said, the solution is not in what Israel is doing. He added: What Israel is doing strengthens Hizballah; the problem is getting worse. Security for northern Israel will not be achieved this way.

Al-Hariri stressed that Lebanon does not approve of the killing of Israeli or Lebanese civilians. He added: And we, of course, are concerned about our citizens, children, and old men; civilians are innocent people.

Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri said Egypt is watching developments in Lebanon with great interest. He said: We are contacting all sides. What is taking place negatively affects the entire peace process and the development process in Lebanon. Egypt fully supports Lebanon.

Egypt: Musa Telephones Lebanon's Buwayz With Mubarak Message

NC1304102696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak expressed the Egyptian Government's and people's concern over the continuing Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon in a message he sent to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. In the message, he emphasized the need to halt the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese people and to resume peace negotiations to achieve security and stability in Lebanon and the region.

The message was conveyed in a telephone call Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa placed to Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz last night.

Lebanese diplomatic sources said Buwayz briefed Musa on the latest developments and Israeli aggressions against Lebanese territories.

Buwayz expressed fear over the Israeli aggression's expansionist aims. He warned of Israel's attempt to extend the security zone for about 10 km to set up a buffer zone so that Israel can be beyond the range of rockets fired from Lebanese territories. The sources added that Buwayz briefed the Egyptian foreign minister on Lebanon's diplomatic moves with France. Buwayz also briefed Musa on the outcome of French President Jacques Chirac's contact with U.S. President Bill Clinton yesterday. The contact sought U.S. intervention to control the situation and halt the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanese territories.

Egypt: French Foreign Minister To Visit for Coordination on Lebanon

NC1504134696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)— Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has received a message from French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette as part of the contacts on Lebanese developments.

De Charette told Musa he will leave for the region immediately. The two ministers agreed to coordinate in light of the serious situation in Lebanon.

Egypt: Musa Says Contacts Held To Stop Escalation in Lebanon

NC1404161296 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt held several contacts today with the foreign ministers of Israel and France and received a telephone call from Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. He said Egypt will do all it can to stop the current deterioration and end the attacks against Lebanon as part of attempts to calm the situation and cease the firing by the two sides. He said that after the talks held by the Lebanese prime minister and President Husni Mubarak in Cairo today, Egypt made several contacts to stop the escalation. An end to the deterioration in Lebanon, he said, basically requires a Lebanese-Israeli and a Syrian-Israeli peace. As long as peace remains unachieved, he said, tension and unrest will continue. He urged efforts to create a climate that will help continue the peace process.

The foreign minister said the Israeli escalation in Lebanon and the Israeli siege on the West Bank and Gaza creates a bad and inappropriate climate for the whole peace process. He said Egypt is trying to stop the deterioration and continue the peace process. This process, he said, means a return of the Arab land, progress on the Palestinian negotiating track in accordance with the agreed-upon timetable, and arrangements to protect the security of all parties — Arabs and Israelis.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1635 GMT on 14 April adds: "Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt today held several contacts with the foreign ministers of Israel and France and received a telephone call from Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. [passage omitted]

["Asked if the Israeli elections contributed to the current security deterioration, Musa said there is a general impression that the Israeli elections added a dimension

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that is not completely positive; Arab countries, like Lebanon and Palestine, are now unsafe. He said it is necessary to return to a situation where the peace process, "which is useful to both sides," can be resumed. The current situation and the use of violence is not in the interest of Israel or the Arabs, he said.

["The foreign minister stressed that Israel cannot establish anything by continuing these operations. Likewise, he said, the Arabs cannot benefit from the peace process unless they restore their lands and rights through the resumption of negotiations.

["Asked about the extent of Arab coordination vis-a-vis these developments, Musa noted that the Arab League will meet this week at Lebanon's request. We will see what we can do through Arab coordination to maintain the peace process as a whole, he said.

["Asked if the current state of affairs requires the holding of a Madrid-2 conference, the foreign minister said: There is now a need to stop the current deterioration and resume the peace process. If there is a need to hold Madrid-2 or something like it, we will discuss all possibilities; we will not rule out any possibility as long as all sides agree to it.

["On his meeting with U.S. Ambassador Edward Walker today and the results of the Egyptian-U.S. contacts, 'Amr Musa said Lebanon and the United States are now in touch to address the situation and to use the role of the United States, as a sponsor of the peace process, to protect this process and stop its deterioration as a result of current developments.

["Describing the situation in Lebanon as serious, Musa said: We want to put an end to this deterioration in Lebanon, which represents a "relapse for the peace process".

["Asked what Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri requested from Egypt today, Musa said: Lebanon asked Egypt to help put an end to the current tension.

["On the possibility of the United States using its veto power during the UN Security Council discussion of Lebanon's complaint, Musa said: The matter will be brought up before the Security Council tomorrow, and there is still no draft resolution on the table.

["Musa stressed that there is Lebanese-Egyptian-Arab coordination. Noting that Egypt is the Arab member of the Security Council, he said it will support Lebanon's complaint at the Council with a view to ending the current bad situation and resuming the peace process in the region.

["Asked if the recent Israeli practices represent a reversal of the peace process and a return to violence in the region, 'Amr Musa said: Return to the violence that preceded the peace process in the region is "a massive and serious regression," and all parties must cooperate to stop this.

["On the contents of his contacts with the Israeli foreign minister over the past two days, Musa said he asked that the current measures be stopped. He added: The Israelis said they also are suffering from the rockets that are fired at them. Since other sides, like Lebanon, are suffering, we are holding contacts with all sides, including Israel.

["The foreign minister said the U.S. ambassador told him during their meeting today that the United States will seek to convince Lebanon and Syria to return to the negotiating table."]

Egypt: Musa Postpones Visit to Turkey Due to Lebanon Situation

NC1504110096 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Turkey that was planned for tomorrow, Tuesday 16 April, has been postponed. Musa stated that the decision to postpone the visit came as a result of current events in Lebanon and the need to follow up on these events. He said that he contacted the Turkish foreign minister today, and they agreed to hold a meeting in Luxemburg on the sidelines of the Peacemakers' Summit foreign ministers' meetings that are scheduled for 21 April in Luxemburg. He added that a new date for the visit will be set during the meeting. He said that this date will be very soon.

Egypt: Government To Send Humanitarian Aid to Lebanon

NC1404200096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has instructed that medical and humanitarian aid be sent to the Lebanese Government to cope with the consequences of the current events.

A diplomatic source said that Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri contacted Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and informed him of President Mubarak's decision to send Egyptian aid in the next few hours.

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Egypt: Al-Baz on Israeli 'Excesses,' Nuclear Program, Peace

NC1404090896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, foreign ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has emphasized that Israel's excesses in the region represented by its aggression against Lebanon and measures against the Palestinian people contradict the peace process and increase doubts toward Israel's intentions.

At a meeting with university professors and National Democratic Party youths at the secretariat of youths this evening, al-Baz said the attack on Lebanon and the measures adopted against the Palestinian people are part of electioneering. Their aim, he added, is to deflect charges that Peres' government is weak as a result of attacks against Israelis carried out by Palestinian groups who sought to foil the peace process.

Al-Baz asked Israel to conduct serious negotiations on a timetable to terminate its nuclear program that threatens the entire region, including Israel. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz expects peace to prevail in the Middle East in the future and that there will be a competition among the region's countries leading to an Arab progress and awakening following previous uneasiness.

He noted that Arab society will emerge strong while world Jews' fanatical support for Israel will lessen and disappear. As a result of peace, he added, the notion of Israeli security will die and Israel will melt in an Arab environment.

Dr. al-Baz emphasized the need to change Israel's agenda in the region and remove the superiority complex so that a genuine peace can come about. He remarked that Israel is a neighbor state that has certain concepts and ideas endangering us.

He said the establishment of a Middle East market in the region requires stimulating the Arab common market. The Middle East market, he added, can come about afterward through Arab ties with non-Arab countries, such as Turkey, Iran, Israel, and other neighboring countries like Ethiopia and Eritrea so that the Arab entity cannot be subjected to any economic domination in the region. [passage omitted]

He noted that the government's current privatization program aims to expand the scope of ownership and that it cannot be carried out at the expense of the working class. He asserted that the economic reform targets this class and aims to provide jobs for it. He expected that unemployment will end or at least will be contained in four years.

Egypt: Court Sentences Spy for Israel to Life in Prison

NC1404135696 Cairo MENA in English 1340 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-'Arish, APRIL 14—(MENA) Al-'Arish Emergency Higher Security Court today condemned 'Amir Salman 'Ali al-Rumaylat to life imprisonment on charges of spying for Israel and drug-trafficking with the aim of harming the country's political and military security and destroying its economy and youths. The court also sentenced him to pay Egyptian Pounds 10,000 in fine.

The court said that Israel would never pose a threat to Egypt's security and stability so long as there are faithful people in Egypt who are willing to sacrifice everything to protect their country against any danger. The defendant betrayed his country and tried to harm it and that is why he had to be punished, the court said.

Egypt: Afghan Envoy Denies Mubarak Assassination Suspect in Kabul

NC1404200596 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—Afghan Ambassador in Cairo Sayyid Fadlallah has denied that Mustafa Hamzah, one of those accused in the assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, is currently in Kabul.

Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha had stated that Mustafa Hamzah is currently in Kabul.

In a statement today, the Afghan ambassador said the Sudanese foreign minister's remarks at the news conference he held in Cairo on Friday [12 April] are groundless. The ambassador expressed surprise at the Sudanese minister's attempt to absolve his government by putting the blame on another country without any proof.

The ambassador reaffirmed his denunciation of the malicious attack on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. He also denounced all forms of terrorism.

Egypt: Sudanese Foreign Minister News Conference in Cairo Protests Sanctions

NC1204204496 Cairo MENA in English 2020 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 12 (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha said his

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country still tries to avert the imposition of sanctions by the UN Security Council.

In the press conference he held at the residence of Sudan's ambassador to Egypt, the Sudanese foreign minister said his country works for convincing the public opinion of the injustice of moving the issue of Sudan from chapter three to chapter seven concerned with sanctions in the UN Charter.

Taha added that Sudan does not see any convincing evidence for levying sanctions against it. Some other countries share Sudan's view, Taha, who arrived here to sign for his country the African Nuclear Weapon Free zone treaty noted. The Sudanese foreign minister denied the presence of terrorist-training camps in his country. He also stressed that the suspects accused of involvement in the attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June last year are not in Sudan.

On the United States' expulsion of a Sudanese diplomat, Taha said this fits within the context of the pressure exercised by the United States on Sudan and its endeavor to convince the Security Council members of imposing sanctions on it.

He referred to the agreement signed recently between the Sudanese government and the factions that splintered from the John Garang army, accentuating that the agreement shores up peace in the south.

Taha said he informed Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa of Sudan's views regarding the issues examined by the Security Council, the charges leveled against Sudan and bilateral relations.

The Sudanese foreign minister met with Musa on the sidelines of the ceremony of signing the African Nuclear weapon free zone treaty.

Sudan

Sudan: Taha Says No Official U.S. Contact on Diplomat Expulsion

EA1304133096 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Ali Uthman Muhmmad Taha, the foreign minister, has met nonresident ambassadors to Sudan at the residence of the Sudanese ambassador in Cairo. At the meeting, His Excellency reviewed several issues, including the historic legislative elections that were held recently in the country. He pointed out they were open to all citizens on a national basis and the basis of extensive competition. [passage omitted]

His Excellency also spoke about the political charter signed recently between the government and the two factions of the South Sudan Independence Movement and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement. He affirmed that it came about as a result of several years' contacts and efforts. He explained the agreement had been reached to find a political solution to the war problem. An invitation had been extended to John Garang to join the peace process in the country, he said. [passage omitted]

Concerning the American decision to expel a Sudanese diplomat, the foreign minister said Sudan had hitherto received no official clarification in this respect. He pointed out that Washington was striving to give the international community the impression that it had proof regarding Sudan so that measures could be adopted against Sudan.

Sudan: Foreign Minister Denies Expelled Diplomat Linked to Bombing

EA1504124196 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign minister, Mr. Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, has said that Sudan had not received an official explanation for the American decision to expel a Sudanese diplomat at the Sudan's UN mission, Mr. Ahmad Yusuf.

He said that this American action in itself constituted an open violation of international law, which obliges the resident country to first take specific measures in such cases, taking into account the fact that the concerned diplomat was accredited to the UN. His Excellency reiterated his complete rejection of reports by the mass media linking this diplomat or Sudan to the explosion at the International Trade Center [in New York].

He described the American action as a form of pressure by Washington to impose sanctions against Khartoum. He reiterated Sudan's rejection of such methods and said that we would protect our rights in accordance with international law.

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Kuwait

Kuwait To Send Emergency Aid to Lebanon

LD1404150296 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1345 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 14 Apr (KUNA) — The State of Kuwait today expressed its grave concern and anxiety over the Israeli military escalation that is taking place with the continuation of air raids against Lebanon. Kuwait has announced that it will send emergency aid to the Lebanese people.

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning, said after a cabinet meeting that the Israeli escalation "is a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, an act of aggression against its territories and security, and a direct threat to the peace process in the Middle East."

He stressed in his statement after the cabinet meeting, which was chaired by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, that Kuwait is standing by Lebanon in its defense of its territories and its preservation of the safety and security of its citizens.

He reiterated Kuwait's stance which sees "the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, related to Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese soil, as the successful path to embodying international legitimacy and toward reaching a just and lasting peace in the region."

Minister al-Dakhil has said that Kuwait "has decided to send emergency aid to help the brothers in Lebanon face the human tragedy they are experiencing as result of the recent Israeli acts of aggression."

Israeli warplanes today continued their raids against Lebanese soil for the fourth day running.

Kuwait: Premier Rejects Iraqi Offer of Talks on Release of POW's

LD1304201896 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, received at the People's Hall Shaykh Salim Al-Sabah, the chairman of the National Committee for the Affairs of Prisoners and Missing Persons, and members of the Kuwaiti delegation that took part in the proceedings of the first international conference on human rights and the Kuwaiti prisoners, held in Great Britain on 12-13 March.

On this occasion, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister made the following speech:

[Begin 'Abdallah recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May God's prayers and peace be upon our master Muhammad, the last of the prophets and noblest of all messengers.

Brothers and sisters: First of all, I would like to welcome you all in your house here today. Also, I would like to assure you that we all share your feelings about the grotesque crime of kidnapping our children from the streets and the squares of Kuwait city for no other reason but for their nationalist, steadfast, and courageous stance. [passage omitted]

We do share your hurt and pain. We do also share your rejection of any proposal by the Iraqi side aimed at playing down this issue. Our reply will always be no.

We are still, nonetheless, continuing our contacts with the Red Cross and other regional and international organizations in order to secure a speedy release of our sons and daughters from Iraq and their return to their country.

We are aware that the head of the Iraqi regime has tried directly or indirectly to convince the Kuwaiti authorities to agree to some kind of formal or informal meetings. And here, I would like to disclose that the Iraqi side has tried unsuccessfully and is still trying to secure Kuwait's agreement for mediation by certain people. On this matter, I have repeatedly said: We will never agree to direct or indirect meetings with the head of the current regime in Iraq or with anyone else speaking on his behalf.

We will remain true to our pledges and would like to say here: Anyone who is willing to exert direct or indirect efforts to secure the release of our prisoners is welcome. But I would like to reiterate here clearly in front of you that we will not accept anyone who tries to create cracks in the rank of our national unity by making statements that are not in the interest of the prisoners at the present or in future. We are aware, however, that this kind of effort warrants further compassion and hard endeavor that will lead sooner or later to the release of our innocent prisoners [passage omitted] [end recording]

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Royal Decree Relieves Najran Region Amir of Functions

LD1304174796 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1710 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 13 Apr — The following royal decree has been issued: [passage omitted]

In accordance with the recommendation of his excellency the interior minister, we have ordered the following: First: His Excellency Fahd Bin-Khalid al-Sudayri, the amir of Najran Region, has been relieved of his functions at his request. Second: This decree will be communicated to the concerned parties for enforcement.

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Iraq: UN Chief Meets Security Council Members on Talks With Iraq

JN1204160796 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1518 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 12 Apr (INA)—UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali this morning began a series of intensive talks with the UN Security Council members on what UN sources described to an INA correspondent as consultations on achievements so far regarding the expected memorandum of understanding with Iraq.

These sources told an INA correspondent in New York that Butrus Butrus-Ghali met with Juan Somavia, Security Council president and Chile's ambassador to the United Nations. He then met with U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright and her aide.

The UN secretary general will today meet with the nonaligned group at the United Nations. They are: Indonesia, Egypt, Botswana, Honduras, Chile, and Guinea-Bissau

Butrus-Ghali will also meet today with the ambassadors of China, Russia, and France separately.

Iraq: UN Chief Reviews Results of Talks; Dialogue Resumes

JN1204200696 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 12 Apr (INA)—The United Nations officially announced that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali met today with the permanent and nonpermanent Security Council member states to review the progress made during dialogue between the Iraqi and UN delegations.

UN official spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said that the UN secretary general reviewed that progress. She added that the dialogue between the two sides took place while the UN secretary general's consultations with the Security Council's member states reflected the progress that was made during the dialogue.

In another development, the two delegations resumed the meetings of the third round of dialogue on the deal of oil for food, medicine, and basic needs for the Iraqi people.

Sergey Lavrov, Russian Ambassador to the United Nations, announced that agreement between Iraq and the United Nations General Secretariat was imminent. In statements to journalists following his meeting with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Lavrov said that the delegations were able to solve many issues pertaining to the deal of oil for food, medicine, and other basic needs.

Ambassador Lavrov reiterated to the UN secretary general that Russia would support his efforts and those of the two delegations to reach an agreement. He pointed out that his country also offers to support the efforts of the parties concerned.

UN sources also learned that the Iraqi and UN delegations would hold a new meeting of the third round of dialogue late this evening, Baghdad local time.

UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali is due to meet with the heads of the two delegations, Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari and Hans Corell.

Iraq: Opposition Delegation Meets UN Envoys in New York

JN1404092196 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the context of the meetings taking place at the UN Headquarters in New York to adopt a position on Resolution 986 and to underline a Kurdish supervision, in cooperation with the United Nations, over the distribution of the supplies allocated for Iraqi Kurdistan; and following their meeting with Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, a delegation representing the Executive Council of the Iraqi National Congress met on 12 April with British Envoy (Derek Blamably); German Envoy (Stephan Rudolf); and Yasushi Akashi, official in charge of the UN humanitarian aid program.

Hushayr Zibari attended these meetings on behalf of our party [Kurdistan Democratic Party]. Emphasis was placed on the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 986, to guarantee the Kurdish people's share of oil revenues, and to distribute this share by a joint commission. The result of these meetings was positive.

Iraq: Oil-for-Food Talks To Resume in New York 15 Apr

JN1304081196 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 13 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi and UN delegations will resume the sessions of the third round of the current dialogue on oil in return for food, medicine, and basic needs for the Iraqi people on Monday [15 April] morning, New York time.

It was announced at the United Nations last night that the Iraqi-UN consultations will continue over the two-day weekend although the official general session will be held on Monday.

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Yesterday afternoon, UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali held an expanded meeting which was attended on the Iraqi side by Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari and Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN representative, and on the UN side by Hans Corell, adviser to the UN secretary general for legal affairs; Shinmaya Garikhan, special political adviser to the UN secretary general; and Yasushi Akashi, UN under secretary general for humanitarian affairs.

This meeting was held after the UN secretary general had met and consulted with the permanent and nonpermanent Security Council member states.

It was learned from UN sources that immediately after his meeting with the Iraqi side, Dr. Butrus-Ghali met with his three advisers who joined his meeting with Dr. al-Anbari and Hamdun.

The INA correspondent in New York pointed out that later last night Akashi met with some members of the French and British missions as part of Butrus-Ghali's consultations with the Security Council member states yesterday.

All day yesterday, Dr. Butrus-Ghali met with the permanent and nonpermanent members of the Security Council and briefed them on the progress made in the dialogue on oil in return for food, medicine, and other basic needs for the Iraqi people.

Russia's UN Representative Sergey Lavrov yesterday told journalists that an agreement between Iraq and the United Nations was near. He pointed out that the two delegations managed to resolve many topics. He said that Russia supports the efforts made by all parties concerned.

Honduran Ambassador Gerad Martinez Blanco [name as transliterated] said that Dr. Butrus-Ghali is very optimistic about reaching an agreement with Iraq in the coming days. South Korean Ambassador Bark Sogel [name as transliterated] told journalists that both sides are about to reach full agreement.

Informed diplomatic sources told the INA correspondent that Dr. Butrus-Ghali briefed all the ambassadors he met yesterday on the results of the progress made by the Iraqi and UN delegations. The sources added that during these intensive meetings and consultations Dr. Butrus-Ghali received support from the five permanent UN Security Council member states.

Iraq: U.S. Aircraft Said Deployed in Jordan for 'Hostile Sorties'

JN1304183996 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement was made in Amman today on the deployment of the U.S. aircraft which will take part in the provocative and hostile sorties in Iraq's airspace, taking off from Jordanian territory.

Jordanian Air Force Chief of Staff Major General Muhammad al-'Ababinah said that on Friday [12 April] 34 U.S. aircraft landed at al-Azraq Air Base, 75 kilometers northeast Amman.

This is the first time the U.S. Air Force has used Jordanian bases to carry out provocative and hostile sorties in Iraq's airspace since the beginning of the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

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Israel: IDF Briefing on Lebanon Actions 12 Apr

TA1204183196 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1726 GMT 12 Apr 96

[News conference by IDF Chief of Intelligence Moshe Ya'alon and Air Force chief Herzl Budinger with correspondents at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ya'alon] Good evening. I will detail the events of the past 24 hours. From last night until this morning, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] did not initiate any strikes in south Lebanon. During the night, two SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions on the (al-Itar) ridge were attacked with mortar and machine-gun fire. In response, the IDF and SLA returned the fire. Israeli helicopter gunships raided a target in 'Arab Salim, a building used by the terrorists to perpetrate the aforementioned attack.

During the night, the IDF directed artillery fire at areas where it detected Hizballah preparations to launch katyusha barrages in order to disrupt their fire. Since 0940 [0640 GMT] this morning and during the day, the terrorists fired katyusha rockets at Israeli settlements in the Galilee Panhandle, the Upper Galilee, and the Western Galilee, as well as at Lebanese villages in the security zone. Four civilians were injured in these attacks; one of them sustained serious wounds.

In response to the katyusha barrage, the IDF fired back at the sources of the fire; helicopter gunships raided two vehicles mounted with launchers and destroyed them. Furthermore, the IDF ordered the civilian population in villages abutting the boundaries of the security zone, under whose cover Hizballah operates, to leave the area within four hours. After we saw that the villagers did not manage to leave the villages on time, we extended the deadline by another two hours. All this was done in order to enable the IDF to raid Hizballah targets in the villages without endangering the civilian population.

Since 1630 [1330 GMT] today, the IDF has been raiding Hizballah targets in the villages whose population was requested to leave the area. Furthermore, in response to the katyusha attacks, Air Force helicopters raided a Hizballah target in Beirut. This target is a regional headquarters of Hizballah in the Hayy al-Sulam neighborhood. The Air Force chief will discuss this raid later.

During the raid on Beirut, antiaircraft fire was directed at the helicopters from cannons deployed north of the airport. The helicopters attacked two cannons and destroyed them.

We demand that the Lebanese population in the villages we detailed in the course of the day leave the area so as to come to no harm. We also recommend to Lebanese citizens in whose proximity Hizballah activists reside or who live next to Hizballah installations in Lebanon to leave those areas or to get Hizballah out of their villages.

[Budinger] Today's actions took place in two time periods: Since the night until approximately 1000 [0700 GMT] when the katyushas fell, there was hardly any aerial activity except for patrols over the area. After the katyushas fell, we launched an operation to spot katyusha launchers. We detected two of them and destroyed them. In addition, we carried out selective raids in areas far from populated areas, villages, or their surroundings. In this open area, we attacked through the clouds. Weather conditions were very tough, but nevertheless we managed to detect and destroy two vehicles carrying launchers, and we also conducted two other raids.

At 1630 [1330 GMT], after a six-hour ultimatum given by the IDF to local residents to leave their villages where terrorists operate, we started to raid Hizballah targets and installations inside the villages. Since then and until now, 13 targets have been raided, and we will continue our raids into the night as necessary.

At the same time, patrols are being conducted over the area. An aerial curfew has been declared, and any vehicle or movement on the roads in a specified area in south Lebanon will be destroyed.

At approximately 1400 [1100 GMT], we raided another Hizballah target in Beirut. We picked it out of a list of targets on our agenda. We will continue to strike in Beirut if this is necessary and if such a mission is assigned. In the course of this raid, antiaircraft fire was opened from the coastal area at the helicopter gunships operating against this target. The helicopters returned fire at the antiaircraft guns and destroyed two of them.

At this point, I would like to point out that I have actually ordered all Air Force pilots to fire back at and destroy any antiaircraft vehicle that fires at them. Consequently, a Lebanese Army antiaircraft vehicle was destroyed yesterday. Today, too, we hit a Lebanese Army antiaircraft vehicle and a Hizballah antiaircraft vehicle and destroyed them. We will continue to do the same the days ahead.

I would like to show you a film taken through the camera mounted on the sights of the helicopter gunships that operated in Beirut against one of the antiaircraft guns from the moment it came into the sights until it was destroyed. [passage with Budinger's explanations indistinct due to superimposed correspondent's comments]

What we see here are a few samples of the targets hit in several villages and their surroundings. As I told you, over 14 such targets have been hit so far. As I am speaking to you, there have probably been a few

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more strikes. These are just a few examples that show that the targets are either near or inside villages.

[Correspondent] I would like to address a question to the chief of intelligence: What has Syria's reaction to the IDF operation been, not only in light of the fact that Syrian soldiers were hit but with regard to the operation itself and the fact that a meeting is currently under way between the Lebanese prime minister and the Syrian president? What is your forecast about the Syrian position in the days ahead?

[Ya'alon] We have not yet discerned any significant Syrian reaction, not even to the attack on Syrian soldiers; according to the media, the antiaircraft positions were apparently manned by Syrian soldiers. When we opened fire at those positions, we did not know that we were firing at Syrian soldiers. As the Air Force chief stressed, we cannot ask a vehicle or weapon firing at our aircraft or our soldiers in south Lebanon to identify itself. We simply return fire to destroy it and to prevent our helicopters and soldiers from being hurt.

[TV Channel 1's Qeren Neubach] What are you actually expecting at this stage? It looks like a repeat of Operation Accountability, with the residents fleeing. Do we want new understandings, U.S. involvement, or something from the Syrians? What will you consider an achievement likely to end this operation?

[Ya'alon] In general, this question should be addressed to the political level. As far as we are concerned, when Hizballah does not fire katyushas, we do not open fire; when Hizballah fires katyushas, however, we retaliate according to our own rules.

[IDF Radio's Danielle Shani] First of all, how long can you drag this operation on in this format? Second, after the operation is over, assuming that we want to attain a new situation in Lebanon, do you think Israel will negotiate with Syria, Lebanon, or Hizballah?

[Ya'alon] The IDF can endure such an operation for a long time, and it is the political level that will decide how long it wants the IDF to conduct this operation. We have no problem carrying it out for a long period of time. The way we see it, such a situation in south Lebanon is more difficult for the Lebanese than for us. The question should be how long the Lebanese will be prepared to put up with such a reality.

[Qol Yisra'el's Pe'erli Shahar] You ordered the residents of south Lebanon to leave the area. Wasn't it a mistake not to issue the same instructions to the residents of Qiryat Shemona and the vicinity in order to ensure their well-being until the end of the operation?

[Ya'alon] The residents of Qiryat Shemona have air raid shelters, and we expect them to be obedient and remain in the shelters during those hours when we ask them to do so. The casualties sustained this morning stemmed from the fact that citizens were outside the shelters at a time when they were asked to seek shelter. Unfortunately, it ended as it did, with a number of casualties.

[Neubach] At 2015 [1715 GMT], Beirut Radio reported another Air Force operation. Can you confirm this? Second, do you detect any sign that Hizballah is breaking down following the intensive attack over the last 24 hours?

[Ya'alon] First of all, we are continuing to attack. If they reported that at 2015 there was yet another raid, then this is definitely true. At this moment, we continue to raid what we detected as Hizballah targets inside those villages whose residents we urged to leave. We are following Hizballah's activities, but we cannot talk about any signs of a breakdown, at least not at this stage. We estimate that Hizballah, to the extent that it can, will try to fire katyushas and perpetrate other attacks. Of course, we are trying to prevent this, either by hitting launchers before or during their operation, as we did today, or by striking at those activists trying to stage other attacks.

[Shani] We had a daily briefing yesterday and another today. Are these meant to convey a message, beyond the people's right to know?

[Ya'alon] I don't understand the question.

[Shani] The prime minister said yesterday that the news conference was held before the briefing given to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee because a news conference is also part of the operation. Does this also apply today?

[Ya'alon] That is correct. Conveying our messages is no less important than the raids in the field, because we want to clarify the rules we are following both to the Israeli people and to the other side.

[Shani] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq stated yesterday that Hizballah has an infrastructure both in the security zone and abroad which they might yet activate. Could you tell us about it? Are we taking the necessary measures?

[Ya'alon] I gave you the details yesterday, and there is nothing more to add. We are aware not only of Hizballah's activities in Lebanon but also of its efforts, with Iranian backing, to lay such an infrastructure abroad. Of course, we are prepared and are taking

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the necessary measures. [news conference continues in English and live relay is discontinued]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 12 April adds that later on in the news conference, Ya'alon said the current operation has been named Grapes of Wrath.]

Israel: Peres, Shahaq Warn of Impending Raids

TA1204140496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1222 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on news conference by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, chief of staff, in Qiryat Shemona "a short while ago" — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Menashe] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, the chief of staff, and senior army officers toured Qiryat Shemona a short while ago. The prime minister has already departed. Earlier he visited katyusha-ravaged sites and held a news conference in the town. He stressed that while Hizballah will achieve nothing by force, it will cause enormous damage to Lebanon. The prime minister stressed: There is no fear or pain in our hearts.

[Peres] So far, several villages from which katyushas were fired and villages that harbor Hizballah cells have been warned. We do not want civilians to suffer, but after the civilians are evacuated, as they should be, we will provide an appropriate answer during the day.

I would like to say a thing or two in general. In the 48 years of the state's existence, it has been proven that nothing can be taken from Israel by force, that no one will sway Israel by gunfire, that Israel can endure difficulties, and that no matter how tough a situation, Israel will withstand it while protecting its interests and will emerge triumphant. All achievements were made through peaceful ways, and all attempts to force things on us failed.

Moreover, I think that just as the Palestinian terrorism which preceded the Oslo accords brought tragedy upon the Palestinians, Hizballah is now bringing tragedy upon Lebanon. We have nothing against Lebanon, and we would have never entertained the idea of creating a security zone had Lebanon not become an asylum for anti- Israeli terrorist organizations. Hizballah will get nothing from Israel by force — there is not a hope in the world of that happening — but it will cause enormous damage to Lebanon, the same Lebanon with which we lived in very good-neighbor relations, the Lebanon toward which we entertain no territorial, political, or other ambitions. It is inconceivable that it should permit irresponsible, informal military organizations to act freely. We will try to demonstrate this through appropriately mature, controlled, and gradual ways. We are not happy with what is happening, but neither are we fearful of the events. If it hurts, it hurts, but we will overcome.

We will do everything to ease the plight of the residents, mainly of the children and women who are in air raid shelters at the moment. They will be the first to bring us victory in this campaign against Hizballah terror. The inhabitants of Qiryat Shemona are quite experienced in this sort of thing. It takes time for the situation to settle down, and I cannot promise when it will end or how the katyushas can be terminated forever. It is a confrontation we must endure, and we will endure it. I cannot make empty promises. What I can promise is that we will take every necessary measure to put an end to the katyushas.

[Unidentified Correspondent] Sir, [words indistinct], and can you predict how long the Qiryat Shemona inhabitants will live under emergency conditions?

[Peres] All I can say is that we will do everything to make this period as brief as possible. Those who wish to be evacuated can be. We feel no remorse for having evacuated the children to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] facilities; on the contrary, we hope they will have a peaceful Sabbath. We have not proposed that anyone leave, but we will help anyone who wishes to be evacuated spend a quiet weekend. First of all, I wish to tell all the inhabitants that the entire country and all of us here are with them in our hearts. It is their lot to stand at the forefront of the war against the Hizballah terror. We know theirs is not a simple or easy life; it is very hard, particularly for mothers and children. We will do everything possible to ease their suffering. Two days ago, we prayed for the survival of a girl who was wounded by a katyusha. We all felt glad that she pulled through. We all feel for the woman who was seriously wounded today; we get frequent updates on her condition from the hospital. At the same time, I would like to ask the inhabitants to enter the shelters when told to do so by the army. Some injuries might have been averted had people heeded the army's instructions. I do not mean to preach; I am saying this because we hold every human life very dear. I would like to wish all the inhabitants a good Sabbath, a holy Sabbath, a peaceful Sabbath. Today, they are a part of the State of Israel's defense forces.

[Menashe] Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq spoke next:

[Shahaq] We know that Hizballah is preparing to fire more katyushas, and it is therefore likely to fire as often as suits its needs. I think Hizballah waited for people to

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get out into the streets this morning and for some kind of normal life to be resumed before it started firing, because it was then able to hit more people. This is not the first time Hizballah has resorted to this technique. This time, too, it aimed to injure as many people as possible, which came as no surprise.

We told the inhabitants of villages in the area from which katyushas were fired that we would operate freely in those areas beginning several hours hence and that, to avoid injury, they should leave the area. Right now, these residents are moving out of their areas, and as soon as the stipulated time elapses, we will operate against any Hizballah target that moves in the area without giving any thought to the nature of the place or to why and where they are hiding. I repeat: Hizballah, which presents itself as the defender of the residents of south Lebanon, is bringing disaster to a great many people.

Right now, some Lebanese villagers are trying to get into the security zone, and we will open the roads into the security zone to enable them to get in. Others will presumably move in other directions. I sincerely hope no civilians will be hurt, because we have absolutely no desire to harm civilians, only to harm Hizballah. As someone said earlier: Hizballah may take advantage of this to leave the area. It has been doing this all along; it continues to hide behind the population, which it uses as a shield. Some Hizballah men may save themselves by hiding among civilians, but the moment the area is vacated in a few hours, we will operate freely against anything we believe belongs to Hizballah. This is what we propose to do.

Israel: IDF Spokesman Denies Attacking Syrian Position

TA1204142696 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Report by military correspondent Avi Lifshitz]

[FBIS Translated Text] At about 1500 [1200 GMT], Air Force helicopters attacked another Hizballah terrorist target in Beirut. The target sustained direct hits during the raid. The helicopters encountered antiaircraft fire, and they fired at the source of the fire. All the helicopters returned safely to Israel. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops sustained no casualties.

Foreign new agencies reported that Lebanese and Syrian Army positions were hit during the raid, which signifies the entanglement we all feared. The IDF, however, quickly denied the report. The IDF spokesman has officially announced that the IDF is not operating against the Syrian Army, the IDF has no knowledge of having hit a Syrian Army position, and no fire has been directed against any Syrian position in south Lebanon. The spokesman adds that the IDF does not know who the source of the report is, but the charge will be checked out.

Israel: Baraq—Nothing To Discuss With Lebanon if Hizballah Active

TA1204182896 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1725 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq in the Tel Aviv studio by Yisra'el Segal in Qiryat Shemona and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari in the Jerusalem studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Segal] Mr. Baraq, to cite the classical adage that war is a continuation of political relations, a carrying out of the same by other means, how would you define the political objectives of the recent days' fighting on our northern border, if there are any?

[Baraq] First: to show Hizballah that it is our prime target, that it cannot enjoy immunity anywhere in Lebanon; second, to explain to the Lebanese Government, which is sovereign on the other side of the border, that sovereignty means responsibility first and foremost and that it is its responsibility to take charge of the situation. We have seen televised reports of large numbers of people — possibly over 100,000 — moving toward Beirut, and the Lebanese Government is accountable for the price, which we regret, in the form of the Lebanese population's suffering and for any other suffering and damage that may be caused. The Lebanese Government is the one that will have to find a solution, and just as it was able to disarm all the other Lebanese militias, it will have either to disband Hizballah or to find another way to quell its activities.

[Segal] The Lebanese prime minister has voiced what sounded like a signal, an invitation to sit down to negotiations. What is our reply, if any?

[Baraq] First of all, the Lebanese prime minister, who is the most efficient Lebanon has had in the past 15 years, had ample time and ample opportunity to order his army to curb Hizballah, to terminate its activities, although he may need Syria's green light for that. Had that happened, we could have negotiated. Right now, there is nothing we can discuss as long as they are not fulfilling a sovereign government's foremost duty: ensuring that no katyushas are fired and no squads are sent into another country from its territory.

[Segal] Mr. Baraq, we have seen a report on a Syrian position's being hit on the outskirts of Beirut. Are there any rules or understandings that can forestall our

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engaging in a frontal confrontation, and is there no danger of a frontal confrontation with Syria?

[Baraq] The footage you saw showed a hit on Beirut, not Damascus. It happened near Beirut's International Khaldah Airport. It is a country's foremost duty to defend its civilians and its fighters, and we will therefore fire at anyone who fires at us.

[Segal] With your permission, Mr. Baraq, I would like Ehud Ya'ari, who is in the Jerusalem studio, to join our conversation.

[Ya'ari] Is Israel taking special precautions to prevent friction with Syrian troops in the Beirut area, including the Syrian troops in western al-Biqa' — what we call the eastern sector — while reports from Beirut say we have been bombing inside Mashgharah, where Syrian troops are usually deployed.

[Baraq] We have been hitting Hizballah targets. We have no business with the Syrian Army. We have hit Hizballah targets. As we said, Hizballah will not be immune to either attack or punishment anywhere in Lebanon: north of the security zone, in al-Biqa', in areas guarded by the Syrians, or in Beirut. We expect to be disturbed by no one in our quest to hit Hizballah. Those who do not like this activity have had and still have the opportunity to terminate the Hizballah operations.

[Segal] Mr. Baraq, do your remarks imply that the business on the northern border is nowhere near the end?

[Baraq] Just as the government said: If there is no quiet in Qiryat Shemona, there will be none in other places. We have seen the pictures of fleeing refugees. In my opinion, things will start happening only when the Lebanese Government understands that the price of failing to confront Hizballah is higher than the price of dealing with us. Meanwhile, as of now, this has not happened.

[Segal] Thank you very much, Mr. Foreign Minister.

Israel: Baraq, Sne on U.S. Understanding, Support for Operation

TA1304092696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq by anchor Arye Golan and political correspondent Shlomo Raz; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Golan] How much leeway have the Americans given us in carrying out this operation? At this point they support and back our activity, but the question is how long will this remain so?

[Baraq] I believe that when the safety and well-being of its citizens is concerned, no sovereign state needs leeway or approval from any country in the world, including not a friend like the United States.

[Raz] Minister Baraq, you are a foreign minister and as such are about to travel to the United States early Monday morning [15 April], where you will hold political meetings. Does this have anything to do with the current events in the north?

[Baraq] I am maintaining ongoing contacts with European and Middle East foreign ministers, as well as with the U.S. secretary of state. We are exchanging impressions and information, but at this stage this has nothing to do with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation. The IDF is acting on the basis of the Israeli Government's responsibility for the security of our northern residents.

[Raz] We should recall, however, that during Operation Accountability the Americans forced a cease-fire on us — albeit in a polite manner. At the time, when you were chief of staff, the Americans forced on us the understandings of Operation Accountability — which have meanwhile collapsed.

[Baraq] Let me correct you: the Americans forced nothing on us. At a certain stage the Israeli Government and the prime minister decided that the achievements were satisfactory and that Israel will give them an opportunity to work. This happened after a week of fighting in which 60 terrorists were killed and some 250,000 south Lebanese residents escaped to Beirut and its environs. These understandings brought about calm in the north for about two years. Over the past few weeks, however, the situation has deteriorated.

[Raz] Does your trip to the United States signal that the diplomatic stage is about to replace the IDF operation?

[Baraq] No, it signals nothing of the kind. The visit has nothing to do with it and was scheduled before the operation.

[Golan] Minister Baraq, can you say in what conditions our activity in Lebanon will end? When will we reach the conclusion that Hizballah has been reined in? Are we merely waiting for the end of the katyusha attacks against our towns, or do we want clear and strong political understandings with Damascus and Beirut via U.S. mediation?

[Baraq] We want to change the situation. There is no point in going into the details as long as the Lebanese policymakers for some reason fail to grasp the seriousness of the situation. I have no doubt, however, that they will grasp it eventually.

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[Golan] Turning to our suspended peace talks with Syria: Would you say it is more beneficial to continue suspending these talks for achieving calm in Lebanon, or perhaps just the opposite — namely, to facilitate them?

[Baraq] I think the two things are unrelated. Our negotiations with Syria stem from Israel's and Syria's joint interest in solving the problems between them, although this interest is naturally related to problems such as security, water, and terrorism on Israel's part, and to various Syrian problems. These negotiations, however, will not commence in the next 3 to 10 days and will not end soon; therefore these are two separate issues. [passage omitted]

[Later on the same newsreel Arye Golan interviews Health Minister Efrayim Sne and asks him about possible U.S. pressure to end the operation. Sne answers: "Allow me to say that there is no U.S. pressure, only U.S. support. The entire world understands that Israel has done everything possible on the political and diplomatic front to solve the problem. Now that everyone knows we have tried but failed, our greatest ally understands our moves. Not merely understands, but actually supports us, and this is a strategic asset we should treasure."]

Israel: Artillery Chiefs Comment on Lebanon Campaign Goals, Methods

TA1304135296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Dan Har'el, chief artillery officer, says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] uses a state-of-the-art radar system that locates katyusha launchers within seconds and relays the information to antibattery centers. The centers relay the launching sites' coordinates to the troops within a minute or two. This method prohibits Hizballah from launching more than one or two katyushas from each launching site and causes erratic launches, which result in a reduced number of katyushas.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Colonel Re'uven, commander of the artillery troops in the north, says the current operation is a planned one, consists of clear stages, and is directed in a focused, fully controlled, and supervised fashion. He said that during Operation Accountability, Israel wanted the Lebanese villagers to leave in order to pressure the Lebanese Administration. This time, the evacuation of the village population was designed to prevent harming civilians during raids on the katyusha launchers.

Col. Re'uven further said that the Lebanon operation is in its initial stages. We fired about 23,000 shells during Operation Accountability and only about 3,000 in this operation to date.

[In a recorded passage in military correspondent Avi Lifshitz's report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1320 GMT on 13 April, Col. Re'uven adds: "I can say that I noticed a change in the Hizballah modus operandi beginning yesterday afternoon. Instead of firing from prearranged locations, it fired from inside villages, such as Bra'shit and Shaqra. They would fire from outside a house and then immediately go back inside. And although they were inside villages, we fired at these sites in order to hit back at those who launched the katyushas."]

Israel: Minister Sarid—Operation Must Be 'Brief as Possible'

TA1304135696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Yosi Sarid says that the military operation against Hizballah was dictated by the situation but that we must ensure that it is as brief as possible and that no civilians are hurt. He asserted that we must not get carried away even while carrying out vital military activity and that the main concern is that we must not permit Lebanon to suck us in, as he put it. Sarid told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that the government must ensure that the activity remains focused and accurate and must prevent things from deteriorating out of control.

Israel: Chief of Staff—IDF Raided Car Carrying Hizballah Man

TA1304144696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, chief of staff, said a short while ago that if Hizballah had not fired a volley at the Beaufort this morning, the sector would have calmed down; Hizballah, however, is continuing its activities, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will therefore pound it with greater determination. The chief of staff made these remarks during a tour of an artillery battery in western Galilee.

Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that yesterday and today Air Force assault helicopters hit four or five katyusha launchers, some of which were about to be activated.

The chief of staff said that the vehicle which, according to Lebanese reports, was transporting children, was really transporting a Hizballah man, and that was why it came under fire from assault helicopters. [passage omitted]

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The IDF spokesman announces that this afternoon, an Air Force helicopter attacked a Hizballah activist's car moving between positions and locations in the al-Mansuriyah area, from which Hizballah has been firing. As far as is known, the Hizballah activist was hurt. In the past two days, the IDF has repeatedly warned that it will hurt Hizballah activists and has called on the population to stay away from them to avoid being hurt. If other people in the car were also hurt, it was because they were being used as a cover for Hizballah's activities, the spokesman said.

Israel: Baraq Speaks With French, Egyptian Counterparts

TA1304153496 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq spoke on the telephone with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette about the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activity in Lebanon. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that de Charette called Baraq after promising the Lebanese foreign minister to appeal to Israel in an attempt to prevent an escalation and the continued shelling of Beirut.

Baraq told the French minister: Suppose rockets were falling in Strasbourg; how would France react? Baraq announced that Israel will continue the attack until the Lebanese Government understands that it must prevent Hizballah activities against Israel from its territory.

Last night, Baraq also spoke with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Israel: Baraq—Israel To Respond to 'Every Attack'

TA1304160196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq says Israel has no interest in a confrontation with Syria; nevertheless, Israel will respond to any and every attack against her. The foreign minister emphasized that every effort is being made to avoid hurting the civilian population in Lebanon.

Baraq leaves on Monday for meetings with top American officials in the United States. There may be meeting with leaders from other Middle East countries. Earlier today he spoke with our reporter Alan Ben-'Ami.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Foreign Minister Baraq, let me ask you, first of all, what diplomatic contacts are under way now with regard to the situation in Lebanon.

[Baraq] Look, I wouldn't like to exaggerate the significance of any diplomatic contacts at this stage. Now our guns and our aircraft are hitting the Hizballah, and I believe that the time will come for diplomatic contacts only once the government in Beirut will realize its responsibility to take over Hizballah. But I had contacts with leading European foreign ministers and, of course, with the secretary of state and some of our neighbors. Basically, it is an exchange of information about what's going on.

[Ben-'Ami] Any sense of pressure at all from the international community?

[Baraq] I don't think that at this stage.... [pauses] I think that basically, the international community realizes that the Americans could not afford having katyushas being shot from neighboring states into Baltimore or Buffalo, and the French could not afford it happening in Strasbourg, or the Egyptians in Asyut. It's clear to everyone that the basic responsibility of a government is to defend its population, and that's exactly what we are doing.

[Ben-'Ami] You say you are waiting until the government in Lebanon appreciates what's been happening and takes full responsibility for events in its country. Let me ask you, though: What about the Syrian authorities? Are there any messages or any responsibilities that you feel Syria has to receive here?

[Baraq] Look, Syria doesn't have the direct political responsibility in Lebanon, but we all know that they could indirectly influence events there by not allowing the Hizballah to gather, to deploy, or to prepare its logistic operation and activity within the areas under their control. [Words indistinct] the targets that we hit in the last few days were in areas under the Syrian control in the al-Biqa, and I wonder why such a terrorist organization could hold camps and installations in an area a few hundred meters from the deployment of the Syrian soldiers. [passage omitted]

[Ben-'Ami] Mr. Baraq, you were the chief of staff for Operation Accountability three years ago — again, a major IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Israeli attempt to stop katyusha rocket attacks on Israel. It didn't work for very long. What makes you think there is going to be any real difference this time around?

[Baraq] Come on. It was a major success. We killed some 60 terrorists, we lost one of our soldiers and one civilian, and beyond everything else, we reached two and a half years of relative tranquillity in the north. It's been violated just in the last few months. Now, if we could by this operation achieve the level of tranquillity in the Galilee that had been there until the last few months for another two years — namely, up to 1999 — it will be quite good in my judgment.

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[Ben-'Ami] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq, thank you for talking with us.

[Baraq] Thank you. [end recording]

Israel: Minister—Operation May Last 'Few More Days'

TA1304160496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am believes the current IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation must end with a renewed agreement between all the concerned parties. The tourism minister toured the Galilee today and met with mayors and heads of local councils. He told our correspondent Yo'el Dar that the operation may last a few more days.

Israel: Chief of Staff Indicates Operation To Last 1-2 Weeks

TA1304161896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The chief of staff has implied that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in Lebanon may last one to two weeks. After meeting with heads of local councils on the confrontation line in the north, Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq spoke with our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i. He told him that he concurs with Northern Command Chief 'Amiram Levin's assessment that this is how long the operation will last.

The chief of staff said the local council heads with whom he met were strong people who understand the situation. There are minor local problems that can be resolved, he said, and the local leaders know where their duty lies and are taking appropriate action. [passage omitted]

Israel: Baraq Rejects Egypt Mediation; Chirac Calls Peres

TA1304165796 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today proposed to Israel to open a channel of communications to the Lebanese Government in a bid to stop the confrontation and the shelling of Beirut. Musa made this proposal in a conversation with Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq early this morning. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that Baraq rejected the proposal, saying that a dialogue is useless as long as the Lebanese Government is not doing the basic thing: preventing Hizballah from operating against Israel from Lebanese territory. Baraq made a similar statement in a conversation with the French foreign minister.

Also this morning, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres held a telephone conversation with French President Jacques Chirac, who asked whether the Israeli military activity would not put an end to the peace process. Peres replied that it depends on the action the Lebanese Government will take to terminate the terrorist activities of Hizballah.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 13 April adds that the Peres-Chirac talk was initiated by the latter, who "asked for details on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation against Hizballah in Lebanon." "The prime minister apprised President Chirac of the causes and scope of the operation."]

Israel: Rabinovich Denies U.S.-Mediated Talks Under Way

TA1304183796 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Ya'aqov Ahime'ir report from Washington — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As Israeli media have reported, Israel has enjoyed the U.S. Administration's backing so far, but the injury to Lebanese civilians, such as the ambulance incident, is expected to cut short the duration of Israel's activity in Lebanon.

A few minutes ago, Lebanon officially requested the convening of the UN Security Council. On 16 April, Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq will meet with U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross, and they will evidently start to discuss ideas for another arrangement between Israel, Lebanon, Hizballah, and Syria. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Ambassador to U.S. Itamar Rabinovich] The United States has been involved in a lot of attempts to prevent the launching of katyushas through a Syrian-mediated dialogue, and I think the United States has come to understand that Hizballah does not consider itself a real partner in such a dialogue.

[Ahime'ir] Has the United States despaired of the prospects of securing another agreement at this time?

[Rabinovich] If the emphasis is on the present time, the answer is no. I think the former format of talks did not prove itself. Obviously, our continuing activity has already changed the situation and created new rules, and I assume the United States may decide, at some point, that the conditions are ripe for renewing the dialogue. So far, however, there has been no sign of that.

[Ahime'ir] Did it give us a green light?

[Rabinovich] Since there has been no dialogue, we did not ask for and the Americans did not volunteer a light, a wink, or any other signal. We said nothing, and the Americans said nothing prior to the operation. I

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have already described the nature of the public remarks. Therefore, if you wish to refer to it as a green light in retrospect, please do, but there has been no official signal. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 13 April adds: "The United States has launched low-level contacts with Syria, Lebanon, and Israel in an attempt to restore quiet on the northern border. So far, the United States has made no demands of Israel, and the U.S. Administration is supportive of the Israeli stand that an arrangement must be secured whereby Hizballah will stop firing katyushas at northern Israel.

["Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq met today with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk and briefed him on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in Lebanon."]

Israel: No. Command Chief Gives Briefing on Operation

TA1304195196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1625 GMT 13 Apr 96

[News conference by Major General 'Amiram Levin, commander of the Northern Command, with domestic correspondents "on the northern border" — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[TV Channel 1 correspondent Shlomi Eldar] General, can you project whether, after the goals the army has outlined for this operation are achieved, no more katyushas will be launched at the northern communities?

[Levin] I think all those who tried to promise quiet periods were wrong and misled the people. I will not risk making any forecasts. A lull is our objective, but I cannot promise that we will achieve months or years of quiet. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Can you describe Hizballah's condition after 40 hours of Israeli activity? What does the army know about its situation in villages and in Beirut?

[Levin] I do not think I should discuss it, as that would provide Hizballah with information. The hard facts are: Most of the villagers have left the area. Few katyushas were fired, and few hit their target. Hizballah keeps trying — with very little success — to raid IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions. Today they fired once at a Beaufort Ridge position and managed to activate one explosive device against the SLA, which resulted in two soldiers' sustaining slight injuries. To sum up, I think Hizballah is in what could be called great difficulty because of its inability to repel the IDF's accurate hits. [passage omitted]

[Eldar] Gen. Levin, the IDF operation includes places under Syrian control. How does the IDF avoid military contact with the Syrians?

[Levin] I will not elaborate on how we avoid it. The IDF operates anywhere it thinks Hizballah should be pounded, whether the area is protected by Syria or by the Lebanese Administration and the Lebanese Army. We have no intention of harming the Syrians, we have no intention of harming the Lebanese Army, and we have no intention of harming civilians. If the Lebanese Army, Syrian troops, or others jeopardize our troops and pose a danger to IDF soldiers or Air Force pilots, they will be hurt and destroyed.

[Eldar] Have the Syrians reacted in any way during the IDF attacks?

[Levin] I will not discuss the Syrian angle at the moment. Right now, the Northern Command is fighting Hizballah. The Syrian side has been quiet, and it would do well to remain quiet.

[Unidentified correspondent] Have IDF soldiers or equipment come to any harm in the operation so far?

[Levin] The IDF has had no casualties so far, and I hope we will continue in the same manner, although I cannot promise anything. We are acting to achieve our objectives, even at the cost of jeopardizing the lives of our soldiers. This is the nature of battle. [passage omitted]

[HA'ARETZ military correspondent Eytan Rabin] Gen. Levin, I understand that we have opened the passages to the north and the south for the migrating population. Will the arrival of villagers not impose a big burden on the SLA, which will have to take care of them?

[Levin] We insisted that the Lebanese residents leave the areas of fighting for their own good. Some of them chose to move southward to the security zone. I am glad they feel the security zone is safer, and they will be welcomed. I remind you that the person responsible for the security zone is Gen. Lahd. It is Lebanese territory, and he will decide on how to tackle the issue. I assume that from the humanitarian point of view and because we do not aim to turn these residents into refugees but rather to help them survive, we will facilitate any effort that helps achieve that end.

[Correspondent] How does the SLA operate within the IDF activity?

[Levin] The SLA takes an active part inside its positions, and it operates against anyone who fires at or endangers these positions. [passage omitted]

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[Correspondent] Was an IDF helicopter downed today?

[Levin] Negative, negative. Not one IDF aircraft sustained any damage, and no IDF AFV [armored fighting vehicle] sustained any damage. The IDF has sustained no casualties. Antiaircraft fire was directed at our helicopters, and we feared that one of them was hit. A check revealed that it was not. As I said, none of our aircraft, vehicles, or personnel were harmed.

Israel: Peres on Aims of Lebanon Operation, Talks With Syria

TA1404061196 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel seeks quiet along its northern border. This is the only political goal clearly defined by Jerusalem for Operation Grapes of Wrath. Israeli officials, while not calling for new understandings, are emphasizing that the understandings reached in 1993 following Operation Accountability — which were gradually eroded by Hizballah until nothing remained of them — are no longer valid. Now, there are no new understandings but rather a new situation. Yesterday, a senior political source said that if Syria and Lebanon have still not realized, the rules of the game have already been changed. Israel has set new rules, the source explained, and if the Syrians and Lebanese want the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to stop bombing Beirut under the new rules of the game, then they know our telephone number, or at least that of the White House.

The United States has already started initial contacts in a bid to bring the Israeli operation to a close; however, these have still not taken the form of intensive political efforts. The Americans have initiated low-level contacts with Syria, Lebanon, and Israel. In Israel, for example, talks are being held by U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk and Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq. These talks are essentially briefings, which aim to determine how much longer Israel intends to continue its attacks. Baraq clarified that the operation's goal was to get the Lebanese Government to halt Hizballah's attacks against Israel. Yesterday, Baraq met with Indyk and spoke by phone with the foreign ministers of France and Egypt. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa proposed that Israel begin negotiations with Lebanon, but Baraq rejected the offer, saying that there was nothing to talk about until Lebanon met its basic obligation to prevent shelling from its territory at Israel's northern settlements.

In any case, the United States supports Israel's precondition that any arrangement reached in the north include an explicit commitment that Hizballah will not fire a single katyusha rocket at the Galilee. This is Israel's basic condition, and it is supported by the United States. Hizballah will no longer be permitted to retaliate by firing at Israel's northern settlements under any circumstances whatsoever.

Speaking in Haifa yesterday, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres addressed the political aspects of the operation.

[Begin Peres recording] I told the United States that Israel would exercise restraint, but I cautioned them that if there were any more incidents, we would retaliate in the necessary manner. I believe that thanks to the political efforts that preceded the operation, the response of the international community — although it will come — will be moderate and sensible. Our message to Hizballah, Lebanon, Syria, and the world is very simple: If Qiryat Shemona is closed down, then Hizballah land will not be a safe place either. [end recording]

On the same occasion, Peres said that he had no intention of repeating the Lebanon War.

[In its headlines, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 14 April carries a recorded passage of Prime Minister Peres' address in Haifa, in which he says: "Eleven years ago, I had the honor of being the prime minister who pulled the IDF out of Lebanon. We have no intention of going back there or starting a new Operation Peace for Galilee [name of 1982 operation which started Lebanon war]; however, we also have no intention of permitting Hizballah to fire katyusha rockets at Qiryat Shemona. Neither alternative is acceptable."]

Our correspondent in Haifa Qobi Mandel reported that Peres also commented on the negotiations with Syria. The prime minister said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad wanted peace with Israel by the end of 1996. Peres, however, declared that negotiations would not be held while katyusha rockets were being fired at Israel. [passage omitted]

Israel: Lubrani—Iran Behind Hizballah Activities

TA1404075796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, said that Iran was directing, training, and arming Hizballah. Lubrani told Qol Yisra'el that the Lebanese Government would eventually have to exert its influence on Hizballah and force it to stop its activity against Israel. Lubrani stressed that Israel would do everything possible to guarantee the safety of the south Lebanese civilians.

Yesterday, it was reported that the staff of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut fled to north Lebanon out of fear that the building would be bombed.

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Israel: Baraq Cancels Trip to U.S. Due to Lebanon Operation

TA1404081896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq has canceled his trip to the United States due to the operation in Lebanon. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. Minister Baraq was scheduled to leave for the United States tomorrow in order to hold political contacts.

Israel: Cabinet Issues Conditions for End of Lebanon Operation

TA1404111396 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel will stop its attacks if Hizballah does the same. That is one of the clauses in the statement issued by the cabinet following its weekly session in Jerusalem. The statement also said that Israel would not permit any firing from inside villages. During the session, several ministers criticized the nature of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] operation. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports.

[Begin recording] [Segal] The cabinet summed up its weekly session by issuing several statements on the continuation of Operation Grapes of Wrath against Hizballah. The cabinet declared that Hizballah deviated from all the understandings and deliberately caused the situation to deteriorate. Israel will not permit Hizballah activists to either fire at its troops from inside villages or hide within civilian population centers and launch katyusha rockets at Israel's northern settlements. There will be no immunity for Hizballah activists or installations, Prime Shim'on Peres said on behalf of the government, noting that if Israeli civilian installations were hit, then similar installations would be struck inside Lebanon, even in Beirut. The cabinet presented a simple condition for halting the offensive in Lebanon, as enunciated by cabinet secretary Shmu'el Hollander.

[Hollander] Israel is not limited by any time constraints. It has the patience, fortitude, and endurance to continue all necessary activity until the cessation of Hizballah attacks. If Hizballah halts its attacks, we will stop ours.

[Segal] When we sought to clarify this condition, Hollander said it was very simple: If they stop firing katyusha rockets, we will stop attacking them.

At today's cabinet session, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid expressed reservations about several moves carried out in the course of the operation as well as with the way things seemed to be developing. When asked about this, Sarid explained that each person could think of ways to do things slightly differently.

In its communique, the cabinet declared that it was including a clause stating that Israel had no intention of returning to Lebanon. Peres briefed the ministers on initial contacts with the United States, stressing that for the time being, Israel was merely keeping Washington briefed on developments. The United States supports us and backs our position, Shim'on Peres said. The prime minister also reported on his conversation with French President Jacques Chirac who complained, Peres said, that Israel's attacks were out of proportion to developments. Peres replied: I wonder what France would do if rockets were landing on Paris.

At the beginning of its session, the cabinet appointed a committee headed by the finance minister. The committee will be responsible for extending assistance to the confrontation line settlements and solving their problems. The ministers are now on their way to northern Israel. [end recording]

[A similar report on today's cabinet session by Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 14 April adds that the prime minister said that "Israel has no intention of engaging in a battle with either the Syrian or Lebanese Armies." Peres noted that "Israel had not asked the Americans to exert diplomatic efforts. The United States was merely receiving briefings." Qol Yisra'el reports that "the ministers were briefed by the chief of staff, the head of the Intelligence Branch, and the head of operations at the chief of staff." The report notes that "the prime minister clarified that Israel's policy was to avoid harming civilians. If civilians were harmed it was because they were either driving in vehicles carrying a single terrorist or a few terrorists, or because they were in the close vicinity of terrorists. The prime minister was apparently referring to the ambulance affair. As for the Lebanese Government's claim that it was incapable of stopping Hizballah because Israel had occupied areas in Lebanon, Shim'on Peres said: We did not occupy the security zone. The Lebanese authorities abandoned the area for all intents and purposes and turned it into a staging point for terrorist attacks. We will not tolerate the fact that the Lebanese Government permits terrorist headquarters to operate undisturbed within its territory."]

Israel: IDF Issues Evacuation Alert for Area South of al-Litani

TA1404122096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has issued an announcement through Radio Lebanon

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stating that all residents of towns south of the al-Litani must evacuate their homes by 1800 [1500 GMT]. The IDF warns that whoever remains in the area is doing so at his own personal responsibility and is thereby endangering his life. Earlier today the IDF informed the residents of Tyre and Sidon they will be able to use the road between the two cities until 1500 [1200 GMT] in order to aid in the evacuation of the residents of south Lebanon.

Israel: Peres—Duration of Operation Depends on Hizballah

TA1404153396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the north today, Alan Ben-'Ami spoke to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, specifically about how long the operation might last.

[Begin recording] [Peres] We didn't mention any date, any target date, and if patience is necessary, we are patient.

[Ben-'Ami] Israeli planes attacked an electric power station south of Beirut today. What does that have to do with Hizballah?

[Peres] Because Hizballah has hit a power station in Qiryat Shemona. If they will hit electricity power places their electricity will face the same problem.

[Ben-'Ami] In the meantime thousands, tens of thousands of Lebanese civilians are streaming out of their homes, moving north toward Beirut. Are you concerned that this may lead to international pressure on Israel to end the operation, perhaps before your aims are achieved?

[Peres] All the people could have remained at the places they are if they would not permit the katyushas to use their villages as a firing place against Israel. What we are telling to the people in the villages is: We have nothing against you; we don't want to destroy the villages, we don't want to hit you. But if your village is becoming a stronghold of katyushas that are firing against Israel, and since we don't want to hit you, please evacuate the place and let us handle those positions or those homes from which katyushas were fired.

[Ben-'Ami] But civilians are being hurt. Yesterday an ambulance with children inside was shot up by a helicopter.

[Peres] The reason was because the children — if there were children — were carried into a truck that was identified as a truck of Hizballah and the driver was a Hizballah man, clearly. I regret he took children into this vehicle.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you have any indications from the Lebanese, the Syrians, or anyone else that an understanding, agreement, an end to all the fighting is maybe on its way?

[Peres] The indications are the katyushas. As long as there are katyushas the indications are clear.

[Ben-'Ami] And the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] — how long is it going to keep up this operation?

[Peres] As long as necessary. We are not impatient. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1405 GMT on 14 April includes an interview with Peres by Karmela Menashe, in which Peres is recorded as saying: "The IDF is not blindly shelling villages or villagers. We are taking great care not to harm civilians. We have no intention of harming Lebanese or any other civilians. Of course, we are also taking great care that no Israelis are harmed."

[Menashe continues: "The prime minister said that the operation is proceeding according to plan. He said it will not end until it attains its goals, adding that Israel is struggling to attain these goals. The prime minister said the pilots are not taking unnecessary risks, but the Air Force's sophisticated level of planning enables the pilots to deal with dangers without risking themselves. Peres said Israel has no intention of returning to Lebanon, but added that he does not want to provide details on Israel's intentions."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 14 April adds: "In his remarks, Prime Minister Peres emphasized that the United States publicly and unequivocally supports Israel's moves."]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 14 April carries a recording of Peres' remarks in Ashqelon on 14 April in reply to a question on "French and Russian criticism": "We have received several messages of protest from France and Russia. I asked the French and the Russians whether they would tolerate the existence of a terrorist quarter in the heart of Paris, one that rejects the French Government's sovereignty, one that fires katyushas at Germany or England; and would Moscow tolerate the existence inside the city of an independent terrorist apparatus that does exactly as it pleases."

[Referring to Yasir 'Arafat, Peres adds: "If he fails to forge a single power authorized to pull the trigger, there will be no peace in Gaza and there will be no peace between Gaza and us."]

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Israel: Chief of Staff Explains Lebanon Operation

TA1404175196 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1635 GMT 14 Apr 96

[News conference by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, Northern Command Commander 'Amiram Levin, and Air Force Commander Herzl Budinger with Israeli correspondents; in northern Israel — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Shahaq] We are into our fourth day of activity, which I will describe quite briefly. Later the Northern Command chief will describe his command's activities in southern Lebanon on the border of the security zone. The Air Force commander will explain the relevant activities of the past two days. After that we will take your questions.

In addition to the raids on several locations in the security zone today, we carried out one raid on the city of Beirut. The style of this raid was similar to the one carried out last Thursday [11 April]. The target of today's raid were the offices of Hizballah's security apparatus situated in the (al-Dahya) neighborhood, inside an area closed by Hizballah. It is very close to the site struck last Thursday, which had been Hizballah's operations center.

In addition, we raided two targets in al-Biqa'. Both had been relay stations serving Hizballah communications. One of the stations is near al-Nabi Shit, and both are in al-Biqa' in the eastern sector of Lebanon.

After the Qiryat Shemona electricity grid was damaged last night, we raided a switching and transformation station. It was not a power station, contrary to some reports I heard today. This raided installation was in the al-Jumhur area southeast of Beirut.

A number of Hizballah targets were raided in the south. The Northern Command chief will elaborate on those.

Today Hizballah fired a relatively large number of rounds. These will also be detailed later. Two people sustained slight injuries in today's katyusha attacks. A school was damaged in one of the townships, but the damage was not very serious.

The method of today's katyusha attacks was to fire one katyusha at a time, sometimes two or three at a time. In most cases the katyushas were fired from inside villages. The Hizballah men obviously store the katyushas inside buildings; when they plan to fire, they leave the building, place the katyushas next to the building, fire, and return to the building as soon as they can. In several instances we saw the firing carried out near a school and a public building in a village.

Today we allowed citizens of northern Israel to leave the air raid shelters in order to attend to various duties that the area — particularly the farming sectors — requires to continue normal life. We allowed people to leave the shelters so as to take care of their chores, and when the katyushas were fired, we sent them back into the shelters.

We allowed citizens of south Lebanon to continue moving northward. As you know, after katyushas started landing this morning, we told the residents of the villages from which Hizballah had been operating to move to the north. I am referring to additional villages beyond the ones which we announced earlier. We will leave the roads open for the population's migration northward. The exodus is continuing at this time, and I sincerely hope that their departure will prevent civilian casualties. I must reiterate that Hizballah continues to use villages as well as civilian vehicles and anything that can help them to appear innocuous, and to hinder our tackling them as terrorist targets.

We will continue to operate anywhere we see Hizballah. We will not permit them to hide inside the civilian population and to act against us out of villages or to use the residents of south Lebanon as a shield.

I am now passing on the floor to the commander of the Northern Command. [passage omitted]

[TV 1's Alon Ben-David] Mr. Chief of Staff, the aim of this operation was to put an end to the firing of katyushas at the Galilee, but today, after four days of fighting, 45 katyushas landed there. Will the katyushas continue to fall?

[Shahaq] The aim of this operation is to make it clear to Hizballah that what it has done in the Galilee in the past few months and weeks cannot continue, and this situation will not continue as in the past. This must be clear, and I assume that they are starting to grasp this. Hizballah said it wants to safeguard the well-being of south Lebanon's residents, and it has done so by harming the well-being and lives of our northern residents. I believe Hizballah already understands...[pauses] I assume Hizballah will do some thinking now. Today Hizballah fired katyushas. I cannot say whether it has more katyushas. Perhaps it will try to fire more katyushas, but it will have to consider whether it is worth its while. We will continue to strike as we have done in the last few days and as we deem necessary in the coming days.

In wanting to preserve the well-being of the residents of south Lebanon, what Hizballah actually accomplished is a mass exodus from many villages there. We are not happy about this, but since we had no alternative this is what is taking place on the ground. Hizballah will have to give an answer to south Lebanon's residents —

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whether this is what they wanted this organization to accomplish and what they expected their self-appointed guardians to do. The Lebanese Government will have to decide who rules Lebanon and who decides how to run the country; whether Hizballah, by bringing about this situation both in southern Lebanon and in northern Israel, is the party in charge or not. All Lebanese, the citizens of Lebanon, the Lebanese Government, and Hizballah leaders will have to decide how they want to live. We have here a situation in which we live in northern Israel and the Lebanese live in southern Lebanon. Things can be different and we want them to be different, and we will not agree to live according to conditions determined by Hizballah and those conditions they have attempted to introduce in the past few weeks and months. Once this is clear to Hizballah and to the Lebanese Administration and to whoever knows how to influence Hizballah, I assume the situation will change.

[Ben-David] But this situation can still continue for several more days.

[Shahaq] Until this is clear to them we will continue striking at Hizballah and make its life difficult everywhere.

[TV 2's Roni Daniyel] Mr. Chief of Staff, what are the operational goals; what concrete situation must prevail not only in the security zone....

[Shahaq, interrupting] Look, we are fighting Hizballah and will continue to do so. It is not the right time or place to make declarations regarding goals. We are not conducting negotiations with Hizballah and we are not holding talks on various lines. Hizballah and the other parties in Lebanon must realize that what has been will be no more.

[Daniyel] How do you interpret the Syrian silence?

[Shahaq] I cannot hear the Syrians. I assume Syria is not isolated in this situation. I assume there is activity and contacts on various levels, and I am convinced that when Syria wants to make itself heard it will know where and how to do so.

[Qol Yisra'el's Karmela Menashe] Mr. Chief of Staff, how many villages do you intend to evacuate? You have already caused the evacuation of 95 villages, and in the end all the villages in the south will remain empty.

[Shahaq] In Lebanon there are villages, residents, and Hizballah. To prevent harm to the residents and to strike at Hizballah — which is our goal....[pauses] and the residents of south Lebanon know that if they remain where Hizballah is located, they may be harmed. Therefore they left the villages and they will continue to leave them as long as the fighting continues. We are not counting villages; we are not fighting the villages and the villagers, but Hizballah. We will operate wherever we find Hizballah. It is advisable for the Lebanese residents not to be in those areas. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Does not the fact that the katyusha attacks continue indicate that the operation is failing to deal with the problem for which it was begun, and is it possible to achieve the goals of the operation without introducing ground forces?

[Shahaq] We did not think it was possible to put an end to the katyusha attacks in one to four days, therefore we did not set any deadlines. We knew beforehand that Hizballah has katyushas and that it will fire them. I already said we assume it will continue its attempts to fire katyushas. We are prepared for this and the northern settlements are prepared for this reality, even if it is unpleasant. They are dealing with this to the best of their ability and in a commendable manner. All the local councils are well prepared and are dealing with the residents and the needs of the region. Several civilian functions are being carried on as usual because the katyushas do not disturb them. We are continuing to move in the area and bring in all the necessary supplies. We are prepared for many more days if it is necessary to continue with the situation in the present manner.

Israel: Intelligence Chief on Possible Hizballah Attacks Abroad

TA1404184396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Intelligence Branch chief Major General Moshe Ya'alon says that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation has pushed Hizballah to the wall and that there is fear it will use its suicide squads against Israel. He claims that the personnel of the Iranian Embassy and the members of the Revolutionary Guards in Beirut have escaped to Damascus.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 14 April adds: "In his briefing to correspondents, Maj. Gen. Ya'alon said Hizballah will try to use the Iranian infrastructure abroad for planning and carrying out attacks against Israeli targets. He said that Hizballah will also try to carry out grave attacks within the security zone and along the Israeli border."]

Israel: Rabinovich—Not Time Yet for U.S. Diplomatic Moves

TA1504044796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and the United States have begun contacts over the situation in Lebanon.

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Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, however, said the time has not yet come for U.S. diplomatic intervention. In regards to efforts to resolve the conflict made by France, including sending its foreign minister to Jerusalem and Beirut, Rabinovich said there was no doubt that the U.S. was the appropriate mediator between the sides.

Israel: Sharon—Operation Gives Opportunity To Expand Security Zone

TA1504053296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ari'el Sharon believes that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in Lebanon has created an opportunity to expand the security zone up to the al-Litani River crossings before agreement is reached on a cease-fire. Sharon said any cease-fire agreement must cover not only the northern settlements but also the entire security zone and must guarantee that there will be no activity against IDF soldiers in this region. Furthermore, he said, the return of the refugees to the security zone should be monitored and the return of those who helped Hizballah should be held up. Knesset Member Sharon spoke to our correspondent this morning.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told a Likud conference last night that direct steps should be taken against Hizballah and international pressure should be applied to Syria.

Health Minister Efrayim Sne also favors direct action against Hizballah and continued pressure on Syria and Lebanon to stop Hizballah activities. At the same time, he rejects Sharon's idea of expanding the security zone, saying that such a policy would pit Israel against another 250,000 Shiites.

Israel: Peres—'Too Early' To Stop Activity in Lebanon

TA1504102596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that it is too early to stop the activity in Lebanon and start negotiations. According to him, Israel will not raise any proposals for a solution, although other elements will. The French foreign minister is expected to arrive in Israel today and meet with Peres.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu toured the Northern Command this morning and was briefed by Major General 'Amiram Levin. Speaking to our correspondent, Netanyahu said that the operation must not end with understandings similar to those attained after Operation Accountability and that a demand must be made for Syria to pledge to disarm Hizballah.

Israel: Spokesman Urges Lebanon To Act Against Hizballah

MS1504105496 London BBC Television Network in English 0600 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Satellite interview with Israeli Government spokesman Yuri Dromi, in Jerusalem, by presenter Justin Webb in studio; from the "Breakfast News" program — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Webb] Well, the Israeli Government spokesman Yuri Dromi is in Jerusalem, he joins me now. Mr Dromi, good morning.

[Dromi] Good morning, Justin.

[Webb] We had the French yesterday saying — President Chirac no less saying that Israeli's action had been disproportionate. If international opinion builds against what you are doing, will Israel listen to that?

[Dromi] We always listen to the international public opinion, but we really have to listen first to the plight of our people in the northern part of Israel. Which is constantly barraged by Katyushas, and this is our first priority, to take care of the safety of our people. If they — Hizballah choose to stop this kind of aggression and if the Lebanese government takes action to curtail the acts of the Hizballah then of course we will also stop our actions.

[Webb] And are you saying that these actions will not stop until those Katyusha rockets are no longer fired on Israel. In other words there is no prospect of any kind of end, any kind of diplomatic solution, any kind of withdrawal by Israel until those rocket attacks stop?

[Dromi] The rocket attacks have to stop first. And any diplomacy should start in identifying the root of the evil, and that is the aggression and the terrorism of the Hizballah. And the inability of the Lebanese government or the lack of will by the Lebanese government to curtail it.

[Webb] I'm sure many people will understand, particularly the feelings of Israelis who live in those areas affected by these rocket attacks, and yet they will look at the pictures that we have seen over the last few days, of innocent civilians, suffering because of this conflict. Does it not look callous from your part, from the Israeli governments side, that so many innocent people are suffering as a result of this conflict?

[Dromi] We really and seriously regret the suffering of people in Lebanon...

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[Webb, interrupting] ...but you have it in your power to stop it though, Mr. Dromi, don't you?

[Dromi] All they have to do is put the blame where it belongs, and that is the Hizballah and the Lebanese government. We will stop our action only when the Hizballah stop their Katyusha rocketing. There is no way in which people in northern part of Israel will be subject to such terrorism and people in the Lebanon will enjoy free and calm life.

[Webb] It looks though, doesn't it, as if you're punishing the wrong people. The people we see suffering are not the people who are firing the rockets?

[Dromi] Yes but these are the people who give them shelter, and these are the people who support them, and the bottom line is if there is a government in Lebanon which feels any kind of responsibility for the Lebanese people it should put it's act together and start restraining the Hizballah. They can do it and they should do it.

[Webb] Mr. Dromi thank you very much for joining us.

Israel: Intensive Contacts With U.S. Under Way on Lebanon Fighting

TA1504122796 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli and American officials have been holding intensive contacts over the last few hours in an attempt to stop the firing of katyusha rockets at Israel's northern border and put a halt to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] offensive in Lebanon.

Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that a short while ago, Uri Savir, the coordinator of the political negotiations, briefed foreign ambassadors in Israel on operation Grapes of Wrath.

Savir said that the coming hours and days would be crucial with regard to how the situation in the north developed.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 15 April adds: "Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni has said that Egypt has been in contact with the Israeli and Lebanese Governments to help formulate an accord that would lead to the end of the fighting in Lebanon. Ambassador Basyuni believes Israel will as early as today launch diplomatic contacts along with the military moves."]

Israel: Tzomet Leader Calls For IDF Land Operation Inside Lebanon

TA1204195296 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1735 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Interview with Israeli Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan in the Haifa studio by Yisra'el Segal in a makeshift studio in Qiryat Shemona — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Segal] Good evening to Tzomet leader and former Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan in the Haifa studio.

[Eytan] Good evening.

[Segal] Mr. Eytan, katyushas continue to fall in Upper Galilee. Do you believe the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] should undertake a land operation against Hizballah troops in Lebanon or settle for Air Force operations and shelling?

[Eytan] It cannot prevent katyushas from falling on Nahariyya merely by hitting targets in Beirut. We must move Hizballah out of the range of fire. I have been saying since the al-Litani Operation [in 1978] that we should sit on the al-Litani bridges and prevent them from moving southward. We should continue to comb this entire area and prevent them from bringing katyushas to sites outside the security zone from where they can launch them at Israel. My suggestion has been repeatedly rejected. The authorities said: Let us launch Operation Accountability and bash the villagers. How can villagers offer resistance to Hizballah? Even the Lebanese prime minister, be he the bravest man in the world, cannot chase Hizballah out, cannot move it, cannot attack it, and cannot prevent its activities.

[Segal] Have we not learned the lesson of the Lebanon war: that quick solutions do not really work?

[Eytan] We have, but the question is how. Had we really learned it, we would not have left the 'Aqiyah and al-Qasimiyah bridges, in which case there would have been no need for the Lebanon war. [passage omitted]

[Segal] What you are saying, in simple language, is that the IDF should reenter Lebanon.

[Eytan, laughing] The IDF is already in Lebanon.

[Segal] Beyond the places in which it is already deployed.

[Eytan] What does it matter? What difference do another 1 or 2 km make? [passage omitted]

History teaches us that if you do not remove them from Qiryat Shemona, they will fire at Qiryat Shemona; therefore, if you need to enter deeper, that is what

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you do. Deployment on the border, inside the range of katyushas, invites fire on Qiryat Shemona. If you want to protect the civilians, you have to move Hizballah away, and that cannot be done by Apaches in al-Nabatiyah but only by an IDF position that will stop them from crossing the river and the bridge, stop them from bringing katyushas into a 15-km range from Qiryat Shemona. Our children matter more than any other children.

[Segal] Thank you very much.

Israel: Likud Demands Special Knesset Session on Lebanon

TA1404074896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Likud Knesset faction has demanded that a special session be convened during the recess to discuss the situation in Qiryat Shemona and the settlements in the north. The Likud faction is demanding that the debate take place this week. The party is also calling for the implementation of the Development Towns Law which was put off some four years ago.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 14 April reports that "the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Knesset faction has demanded an urgent meeting with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to discuss what it calls the warlike exacerbation in Lebanon, the harming of innocent civilians, and the deplorable risk of repeating another Lebanon war like the one launched by Ari'el Sharon and Refa'el Eytan."]

Israel: Labor To Suspend Attacks on Likud During Lebanon Operation

TA1404085496 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Labor has decided to lower the profile of its election campaign for the duration of the military operation in Lebanon and to temporarily suspend the personal attacks on Likud leader MK [Knesset Member] Binyamin Netanyahu, which were to begin via media ads this week.

Labor leaders said yesterday that they expect the Likud to do the same, "if they are wise."

Labor Secretary-General Nisim Zvili said yesterday, "we shall not conduct an aggressive election campaign in the media or the streets until the operation is over. This is not the time to attack and engage in propaganda for the party."

The general feeling in Labor is that the military operation is actually doing the campaign work for the prime minister.

Zvili said the prime minister explained the reasons for delaying the military operation to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

He noted that the official launching ceremonies of the election campaign such as last night in Haifa, today in Beersheba and next Saturday [20 April] in Jerusalem could not be postponed and will take place as planned.

Criticizing Likud leaders' attacks on the government for failing to react to the Hizballah attacks, Labor campaign staff chairman, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said: "All those who shot their mouths off about the government's self restraint before the operation now understand that it provided us with the American support and backing we have. The US would not have placed itself squarely behind us had it not been for the moves and restraint preceding the action in Lebanon."

Israel: Netanyahu Urges Action Against Syria

TA1504044496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that in order to attain peace and quiet in the north for years, a direct operation against Hizballah should be combined with an operation against Syria, which backs the terrorists. He believes that the main problem is Syria, not Iran, and that only international pressure on Damascus can help. Netanyahu was speaking at a Likud conference in Tel Aviv.

Speaking at the same conference, David Levi said that the operation in Lebanon should end with an international declaration, led by Syria, that Hizballah and terror activities from Lebanon have stopped.

Israel: 'High-Ranking Sources'—Syria Signals Readiness To Talk

TA1504052396 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Apr 96 pp 1, 19

[Report by Nahum Barne'a and Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel has received initial signals of Syrian willingness to discuss new understandings in Lebanon, high-ranking Israeli sources revealed last night.

Israel expected Syria to evince readiness to discuss settling the Lebanese conflict, but, the Israeli sources said, the signals were received sooner than anticipated.

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[Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew on 15 April carries a report by U.S.-based correspondent Gid'on Kouts, Dan Avidan, and Arye Dayan on pages 1 and 2, adding: "The U.S. Administration will launch intensive contacts with Israel and Syria today in a bid to prevent an escalation on the Israeli-Syrian border." The report adds that "Dennis Ross has been briefed by Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich on the latest developments in the region and was informed of Israel's agreement to a coordinated political intervention by the United States."]

The Israeli sources added, however, that Syria is still permitting Hizballah to receive weapons — including katyushas — from Iranian sources. The airlifted weapons arrive in Damascus from Tehran and are then transported by truck to Hizballah in Lebanon. Approximately 50 katyushas were launched at Israel yesterday — the highest number since the beginning of Operation Grapes of Wrath. [passage omitted]

A senior Israeli element said last night that Israel has no illusions that the operation will end with a signed agreement. He added that even agreements similar to those achieved at the end of Operation Accountability may fail to materialize. It is enough that Hizballah knows that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will respond with unrestrained gunfire to every katyusha launched at the Galilee. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, no time limits have been imposed on the IDF. At yesterday's cabinet meeting, Shim'on Peres spoke of the possibility that the situation will go on for weeks. Another high-ranking source compared the situation of the residents of the north to that of Area A residents during the Gulf war. "If Tel Aviv residents lived like that for a whole month without breaking down, the residents of the north can bear it, too," he said.

As the operation goes on, however, the government is coming under internal and external pressures which may create time restraints for the IDF.

In fact, Syria is the focus of the Israeli activity. The IDF operation is designed to make the Syrians realize that a cease-fire will be advantageous. Israel has been declaring that it does not intend to harm Syrian targets or Syrian troops, but the IDF activities are actually harming the Syrians' standing in Lebanon. They are exposed to the IDF's gunfire both in al-Biqa' and in Beirut.

Reports by Lebanese security sources contend that the Lebanese Army has begun inspecting ambulances suspected of being used as a cover by Hizballah and is detaining armed individuals riding in these vehicles. The Lebanese Army began this practice in the wake of an incident in which an Air Force helicopter fired a rocket at an ambulance, killing six civilians.

Security sources assessed that this approach is the Lebanese Army's first move toward curbing the Hizballah activities.

Israel: Roundup of Katyusha Attacks 12-15 Apr

WA1504160096 in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Report] The following are reports from Israeli media on katyusha attacks on the Galilee area between 12 and 15 April:

— [Tel Aviv IDF Radio Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Apr] "Another round of katyushas was fired at the central Galilee a few minutes ago. Our correspondent Qobi Mandel reports that this time, several katyushas landed in an uninhabited area. No one was hurt. [passage omitted] At this time, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is firing at the terrorist targets from which the latest katyushas were fired."

— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 1536 GMT 12 Apr] [Report by Ilan Ro'e] "Another barrage of katyushas fell on the Galilee panhandle three minutes ago. Fortunately, there were no casualties, and no damage was caused. The katyushas fell in a field near one of the communities here."

— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Apr] "Two more rounds of katyushas landed in the Galilee panhandle this evening, and one round landed in Western Galilee. There were no casualties. In Western Galilee, the rockets fell close to houses, damaging one of them. This was reported by our correspondents Moti 'Eden and Ilan Ro'e. Katyusha rockets were also fired at Marj 'Uyun in the security zone. No casualties were reported."

— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el English 0400 GMT 13 Apr] "Tension in Israel's north continued through the night. At night, four more katyusha rockets were launched from Lebanon at the Galilee panhandle and at western Galilee. There were no reports of casualties. One rocket fell in a built-up area, causing damage to a house. Israel Air Force [IAF] attacks against targets in south Lebanon continued last night, but have reportedly stopped in the last few hours due to stormy weather conditions. Altogether Israeli fighter planes and helicopters carried out 16 attacks in south Lebanon yesterday and two others in the Beirut area. Israeli artillery pounded positions throughout south Lebanon. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] also moved in additional artillery to the north."

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— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el English 1400 GMT 13 Apr] "There was a false alarm at 1215 [0915 GMT] today, when it was reported that katyushas were fired into the Western Galilee. The army received the report when the area was undergoing a bad storm with heavy rain and thunder. A search of the reported area where the rockets were said to have fallen turned up nothing. It is believed that the weather conditions were the reason for the incorrect report."

— [Tel Aviv IDF Radio Hebrew 0950 GMT 13 Apr] [Report by military correspondent Avi Lifshitz — live] "Around noon today several katyusha rockets landed in western Galilee. The rockets landed near a western Galilee settlement that usually does not suffer from katyusha attacks. Due to censorship reasons we cannot divulge its name. So far there are no reports on casualties or damage caused by this volley, which apparently fell in open terrain near the settlement. This is the first katyusha attack today." [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 0955 GMT 13 Apr adds: "According to the initial report, our correspondents say there were no casualties or damage."]

— [Tel Aviv IDF Radio Hebrew 1826 GMT 13 Apr] "A round of katyushas landed in an open field close to a western Galilee settlement a short while ago. No casualties have been reported. We stress: This is merely an initial report. It was the first volley of katyushas fired at any part of the northern border today."

— [Tel Aviv IDF Radio Hebrew 1853 GMT 13 Apr] "Two volleys of katyushas were fired in the past hour at the northern border: One at the western Galilee about 45 minutes ago, and another at Qiryat Shemona quite recently. 'Adi Talmor reports from the Galilee Panhandle:

[Talmor] "Shalom from the IDF Radio studio in Qiryat Shemona. A volley of katyushas landed here a few minutes ago, and the entire town is steeped in darkness, probably as a result of damage to the electricity grid. [passage omitted]
[Correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz] "We have just learned that there were no casualties in the katyusha attack on the Galilee panhandle about 20 minutes ago. We are standing very close to a site where one of the many rockets fell. I can see damaged houses and cars. Most residents are not at home; they are either in shelters or have left the area; therefore, there are no casualties."

— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 0610 GMT 14 Apr] "Here is a report just in from the newsroom: Several katyusha rockets landed in the Galilee panhandle several minutes ago. Our correspondent in the north Ilan Ro'e reports:

"A volley of katyusha rockets landed in the Galilee panhandle approximately one minute ago. There has been some damage to property. There are no reports of casualties yet. The katyushas landed in the center of one of the settlements and created a large crater. A large electricity transformer was hit, and some kind of unidentifiable liquid is trickling down. At any rate, this seems to pose a risk to public safety, and we are keeping people away. The katyusha rockets landed in an inhabited area. The explosion was so close that we raced to the area on foot. There were two volleys, but due to the explosion and concussion effect, it is difficult to say exactly how many rockets landed. There was no one in the area where the rockets landed. It is a large grassy area. The rescue services have just arrived to repair the electricity transformer and ascertain whether or not there are any casualties."

— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 0652 GMT 14 Apr] [Report by correspondent in the north Gay Qotev] "Another two katyusha rocket volleys have landed in the Galilee panhandle since our last report approximately 30 minutes ago. To the best of our knowledge — and we are almost certain of this — there are no casualties. There has been property damage. We have just arrived at the first aid station in Qiryat Shemona. No ambulances were sent out because there were no reports of casualties. Rescue personnel set out in their own vehicles to the sites of the katyusha landings. They are currently inspecting the damage. As reported earlier, there are no reports of casualties in the last two attacks. Three volleys of katyusha rockets have therefore been fired at the Galilee Panhandle in the past hour. The rescue vehicles are driving by as we speak, using their loudspeakers to urge residents to stay in the air raid shelters for the fifth consecutive day. This is very difficult, but the residents are being warned not to leave the shelters under any circumstances. We will update you on any new developments."

— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 0730 GMT 14 Apr] "Another volley of katyusha rockets hit the Galilee panhandle a short while ago. There are no reports of casualties or damage."

— [Tel Aviv IDF Radio Hebrew 0833 GMT 14 Apr] [Telephone talk between anchorman 'Adi Talmor in Tel Aviv, correspondent Baraq Ronen in western Galilee, and army affairs correspondent Avi Lifshitz in the Galilee panhandle — live] [Talmor] "There have been another two katyusha volleys: One landed in the Galilee panhandle, while the second volley was fired toward the western Galilee. The extent of damage, if there was any,

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remains unclear. There have now been six volleys of katyusha rockets against Israel since this morning. We still do not know whether there were any casualties or damage. Our correspondent Baraq Ronen is on the line:

[Ronen] "We still do not have accurate details on the scope of damage or the number of casualties, if there were any. What we can say is that a number of katyusha rockets apparently landed in two settlements in the western Galilee. We still do not know whether there were any casualties or damage.
[Talmor] "Our army affairs correspondent Avi Lifshitz is on the line with details about the latest volley in the Galilee panhandle. What can you tell us at this time, Avi?
[Lifshitz] "We have received reports from the residents of one of the settlements in the Galilee panhandle in the general area of the Hula Valley. The residents reported that a volley of katyusha rockets landed. We still have not received any official confirmation of this by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. As we heard earlier, this volley was accompanied by another one near two settlements in the western Galilee. It remains unclear whether there were any casualties there. We understand that there were no casualties in the Galilee panhandle since the rockets landed in an open area. We will bring an update with additional details as soon as possible. It is now clear that Hizballah has resumed firing katyusha rockets at the Galilee, following a 12-hour hiatus after last night's attacks which landed in Qiryat Shemona and the western Galilee.
[Talmor] "This brings the number of katyusha attacks against Israel to six within the last three hours.

— [Tel Aviv IDF Radio Hebrew 0854 GMT 14 Apr] "Another volley of katyusha rockets landed in an open area just a few minutes ago. There are apparently no casualties in this, the seventh katyusha attack since this morning."

— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Apr] "Katyusha rocket volleys are continuing to land on the Galilee panhandle and the western Galilee. Several volleys were launched at both of these areas within the past hour. A woman was lightly injured in one of the volleys a short while ago. A chicken house was directly hit at one of the settlements in the Galilee panhandle, and thousands of birds were killed. There were electricity blackouts in several locations, and electric corporation workers are repairing the grid. This was reported by our correspondents Ilan Ro'e, Moti 'Eden, and Gay Qotev."

— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Apr] "The katyusha attacks in the north continued at noon today. Several katyusha rockets fell on the Galilee panhandle approximately one hour ago. Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that several minutes ago katyushas landed in western Galilee."

— [Tel Aviv IDF Radio Hebrew 1230 GMT 14 Apr] "An office building sustained rather serious damage by a direct hit in the latest katyusha attack on a Galilee settlement. Fortunately, the building was empty, and no one was hurt. Our correspondent Baraq Ronen updates from the site of the latest katyusha hit:

[Ronen] "Shalom. Before we discuss the damage to the office building, I wish to inform you that a few minutes after that happened, one more katyusha rocket landed in another part of the same township. There were no casualties in the attack. We are not certain whether the latest rocket was a part of an earlier volley, nor does it really matter. What really is conspicuous is the high frequency of the attacks. The office building you mentioned has a gaping hole in one of its walls, its windows were shattered, and the plastering fell off. President Weizman arrived at the scene of this katyusha several minutes after the hit."

— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Apr] IAnother katyusha volley, the 10th today, fell during the last hour both in the Galilee Panhandle and in western Galilee. There were no casualties."

— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Apr] "Several katyusha rockets landed in the confrontation line settlements this evening. In one of the cases a shelter was hit in a residential neighborhood in which dozens of adults and children were located. Two adults were slightly wounded, one by the blast wave."

— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 0400 GMT 15 Apr] "An hour ago, several katyusha rockets fell in the Galilee Panhandle. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that the rockets fell in open fields. Last night passed quietly in the Galilee. The IDF continued intermittent attacks against Hizballah targets in Lebanon.

— [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew 0623 GMT 15 Apr] [Report from the north by Gay Qotev] "Another round of katyushas has just hit the Galilee. The most important thing is that no one was hurt. The barrage of katyushas fell in two uninhabited locations. As far as we know now, no damage was caused."

— [Tel Aviv IDF Radio Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Apr] "A katyusha volley landed in the western Galilee several minutes ago. There were no injuries. The katyusha rockets fell in open terrain and caused no damage."
— [Tel Aviv IDF Radio Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Apr] "Several katyusha rockets were fired at the Galilee

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panhandle and the upper Galilee in the past hour. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports that there were no reports of casualties but light damage was caused. Since this morning, there has been no significant hiatus in the firing of katyusha rockets at Israel's northern settlements. Nevertheless, there have been no reports of casualties' requiring hospital treatment."

Israel: SLA Mobilizes Reserves; IDF Artillery Batteries Moved North

TA1204194396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1930 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The SLA [South Lebanese Army] has mobilized reserves soldiers. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has been transporting artillery batteries to the north, and sources in Beirut say that Israel has stepped up the shelling of all sectors in south Lebanon.

Israel: 'Spurious' Reports Said To Show Hizballah in Trouble

TA1304150296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that Hizballah is beginning to issue spurious statements on katyusha launches, the downing of an Israeli helicopter, and raids on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] positions. This seems to indicate that the organization is in serious trouble, because the Hizballah statements on its men's activities have been reliable until now.

Israel: Planes Raid Beirut Power Plant in Response to Katyushas

TA1404110896 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1032 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Live telephone report by military correspondent Avi Lifshitz]

[FBIS Translated Text] IDF sources have just reported that, in reaction to the firing of katyushas, the damage caused to the electricity grid in Qiryat Shemona yesterday and to the civilian infrastructure of the settlements along the border today, Air Force jets attacked a Lebanese power plant in the Jumhur area of Beirut at 0930 GMT today. The pilots reported that the target, located in southern Beirut, was directly hit.

This is the third Air Force raid on Beirut over the past few days. The mission was completed with no IDF [Israel Defense Forces] casualties. Lebanese sources say that an Israeli plane fired a single missile at the Jumhur power plant, which is very close to the presidential palace in Beirut.

The IDF sources stress that the attack on the power plant came as a response to the harm done to the Qiryat Shemona electric grid yesterday and the damage caused to the civilian settlements in the Galilee Panhandle and the Western Galilee all day today. As we reported earlier, some 10 katyusha barrages hit the Galilee today, and the Air Force is shelling targets in south Beirut in response.

Israel: Planes Return After Attack in al-Biqa, Near Syria

TA1404142696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel Air Force planes attacked targets in Lebanon's al-Biqa about one hour ago. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that Lebanese stations reported the Israeli planes attacked targets in al-Nabi Shit and Ansariyah in al-Biqa, not far from the border with Syria. Our monitor notes that a large Hizballah command is located in al-Nabi Shit, east of Zahlah. It was reported that in the attack a transmitter of the terror organization called the Oppressed was hit in the attack.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman confirmed the attack and announced that all planes returned safely to base. The statement says that the IDF will continue to attack Hizballah targets as the need arises.

Israel: Political Sources Report 2 Syrian Soldiers Killed in Raid

TA1204192296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] This afternoon, a Lebanese tank was struck by a rocket fired by an Israeli assault helicopter. Also this afternoon, Israeli helicopters hit a joint Syrian-Lebanese Army base after coming under fire from that base. Syria announced that one of its soldiers was killed and seven seriously wounded in the attack, but our correspondent Shlomo Raz cites Israeli political sources as saying that two Syrian soldiers were killed in the raid.

Israel: 'Ivri To Request Expedited Development of Nautilus System

TA1404084396 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Apr 96 pp A1, A14

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The recent katyusha barrages that hit the Galilee have motivated Israel to ask the United States to expedite the development of the project in which both countries are developing a system for the interception of rockets with laser beams. Israel

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notified Washington that it is willing to invest some $20 million for the quick development of the system. This request will be one of the urgent issues Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri will raise during his upcoming meetings in the Pentagon and the State Department. He is carrying a letter on this issue from the defense minister.

'Ivri and his aide Brigadier General Quti Mor are leaving for Washington for talks on strategic cooperation and to prepare the visit there at the end of the month by Shim'on Peres, prime minister and defense minister, who wishes to discuss the possibility of establishing a strategic pact between Israel and the United States. On the eve of his departure, it has been decided that it is important that 'Ivri raise the katyusha threat while in the United States, mainly in view of the recurring Hizballah at?acks on Israel's northern settlements. [passage omitted]

Israel is currently willing to allocate more funds for the development of the system. In preliminary discussions, it notified the United States that it is willing to invest some $20 million over the next two years. It wants the development expedited through the quick production of two operational prototypes of the Nautilus system. [passage omitted]

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Jordan: Prime Minister To Pay 'Brief' Visit to Israel

JN1504142196 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In pursuance of the extensive diplomatic efforts led by His Majesty King Husayn over the past two days, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti will pay a brief visit to Tel Aviv on 16 April. Al-Kabariti will convey a message from His Majesty King Husayn to Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. The message deals with the latest incidents in Lebanon and the need to halt the serious bloodshed there.

Jordan: Prime Minister Voices Solidarity With Lebanon

JN1404164096 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti emphasized the solidarity of Jordan—leadership, government, and people—with Lebanon and the need to halt the Israeli military operations, which harm the regional peace process, and make efforts to eliminate the sources of tension.

Lebanese Ambassador William Habib met with al-Kabariti at the prime minister's office this afternoon. The ambassador explained the situation in Lebanon as a result of the Israeli aggression over the last few days. This aggression has inflicted human losses and great material damage.

In a media statement after the meeting, Habib said he met with the prime minister to explain the tragedy Lebanon is experiencing as a result of the Israeli military aggression. He said the prime minister briefed him on the high-level contacts Jordan is making at the instruction of His Majesty King Husayn.

Habib said Israel's objective in Lebanon is to use women, children, and the elderly to pressure the Lebanese Government. Israel wants to displace the largest possible number of people and force them to Beirut to pressure the government.

Jordan: King Husayn Offers Humanitarian Aid to Lebanon

JN1404184196 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here in Amman, His Majesty King Husayn called Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The king wanted to reassure himself about the situation in Lebanon, especially in the areas that have come under Israeli shelling. His Majesty King Husayn voiced Jordan's readiness to offer any humanitarian assistance that may be needed by the brothers in Lebanon, particularly the victims of the military operations.

The Lebanese president expressed his appreciation for his majesty's brotherly initiative, which expresses the deep relations between the two peoples.

Jordan: Al-Mu'ashshir on Israeli Lebanon Attacks, 'Arafat Remarks

JN1304203496 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a session under Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti this evening. During this session, the council made several decisions regarding the topics debated. At the end of the session, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir [minister of information] spoke to reporters:

[Begin recording] [Al-Mu'ashshir] The council debated the conditions for granting businessmen the right to engage in touristic investment in the Dead Sea area. It also stressed the need to expedite efforts to build the necessary infrastructure in the area so that this may catch up with the investment activity in the area, which is expected to reach $500 million. [passage omitted]

[Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] Dr. al-Mu'ashshir: Where does the government stand on the ongoing military escalation in northern Israel and southern Lebanon?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] As a matter of fact, the prime minister, as you must be well aware, was the first Arab official to have contacted Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri yesterday. The prime minister expressed to al-Hariri the government's concern over the serious escalation caused by the recent Israeli military operations. He also stressed the need to halt the serious bloodshed, which is adversely affecting the peace process. The prime minister also telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and asked him to halt these operations and resume the efforts to defuse tension and reinstate the peace process.

[Unidentified correspondent] I would like to ask about the clarifications sought by the Jordanian prime minister on the statements made by the Palestinian president regarding the presence of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in Jordan. Did you obtain the required clarifications, particularly since similar statements were made by several Palestinian officials, be they security officials or politicians? I have another question on Egyptian statements regarding the presence of leaders of the Repudiation and Renunciation Organization in Jordan. Thank you.

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[Al-Mu'ashshir] With regard to the recent Palestinian statements, as you must be well aware, Jordan has made several moves. His excellency the prime minister met with Abu-Mazin, also known as Mahmud 'Abbas, yesterday. Moreover, Ziyad al-Majali, the Jordanian delegate accredited with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], met with President Yasir 'Arafat to seek clarifications on these statements, which actually were extremely puzzling. The meeting with Abu-Mazin was largely useful and positive. We understand the conditions experienced by the Palestinian people at this point. But, at the same time, we hope that the brothers will be able to resolve their problems without directing unsubstantiated accusations at Jordan. We have repeatedly told the Palestinian brothers that we will not allow anybody to jeopardize the PNA's security, and that any attempt to threaten the security of the PNA is tantamount to an attempt to threaten Jordan's security. Our position in this regard is firm. If there is any relevant proof or evidence, the Jordanian Government will examine it. So far, we have not received any such proof or evidence.

With regard to the Egyptian statements, everybody is well aware that the Repudiation and Renunciation Organization is outlawed and banned by Jordanian authorities. Consequently, it is unreasonable and preposterous for Jordan to shelter such an organization under any circumstances. This organization is outlawed in Jordan, as I have just said. [end recording]

Jordan: Government Wants To Avoid 'War of Words' With 'Arafat

JN1304114296 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Apr 96 pp 1, 7

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekenand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan understands the context in which Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat blamed the Kingdom for the challenge posed to him by the militant Hamas group and does not want to engage in a slinging match with the Palestinian leader, a government source indicated Friday [12 April].

The source was speaking one day after Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti met with Mahmud 'Abbas, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) Executive Committee.

Mr. 'Arafat's assertions on Wednesday that the "leadership of Hamas" was based in Jordan and Hamas members in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were getting their orders from this leadership were believed to have figured high in the meeting between Mr. al-Kabariti and Mr. 'Abbas. But there was no official comment on the issue.

The government source described the meeting as "satisfactory."

When pressed as to how Jordan viewed the comments by Mr. 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and president of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the source said: "We know that when faced with serious internal problems, Mr. 'Arafat makes such statements. We have no intention of launching and escalating a war of words and would like to settle the issue in an amicable manner."

The source, who did not want to be identified, did not elaborate.

However, observers said, the source's comments indicated an understanding that Mr. 'Arafat, who is known for laying "red herring" whenever he comes under pressure from within Palestinian ranks, levelled the charge against Jordan to gain a respite from mounting Palestinian criticism over his handling of autonomy and negotiations with Israel.

"Jordan is aware that Mr. 'Arafat knows well that no Hamas leader is based in Jordanian territory, and, as such, the government's reaction to his comments reflect an understanding as to why he made such a charge against the Kingdom," said a seasoned observer. "Obviously Jordan wants to play down the whole thing."

Jordan has repeatedly rejected assertions by Mr. 'Arafat and other members of the PNA that Hamas leaders were based in the Kingdom. They point out that some Jordanian nationals represent the views of the group to the media in an informational context, and, in any case, the government cannot take any action against them because they are not violating any Jordanian laws.

Interior Minister 'Awad Khulayfat reiterated on Thursday that the Hamas group was not present in Jordan.

Mr. 'Arafat, during a meeting on Wednesday of the Palestinian legislative council elected in January, charged that Hamas had declared a "war" on the PNA in the West Bank and Gaza and that the orders were coming from Jordan.

A Jordanian official said Thursday that Jordan was "surprised" by such comments and reaffirmed that the Kingdom was fully committed to supporting the PNA. "Jordan will not allow the security of the Palestinian National Authority to be affected by any action from the Kingdom," [he] told the Jordan Times. "We are in fact in one boat seeking a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

On Thursday, Ziyad al-Majali, head of the Jordanian interests office in the Gaza Strip, met with Mr. 'Arafat

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and sought a "clarification" of his comments. it was not clear by Friday whether the Palestinian president had offered any clarification.

Hamas is an avowed opponent of the autonomy agreements signed by the PLO and Israel and seeks to wreck the peace process through extremist attacks in the Jewish state designed to undermine Israeli confidence in the accords reached with the PLO.

PNA officials first charged, in comments carried by the Palestinian and foreign media, that Hamas leaders were present in Jordan shortly after a wave of suicide bombings claimed by the group killed nearly 60 people in Israel beginning Feb. 25.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Government officials rejected the charge and expressed surprise that such charges are levelled against the Kingdom.

Subsequently, those who purportedly made the allegations, notably Palestinian Cooperation Minister Nabil Sha'th, denied making such statements and said the comments carried were distorted by the media.

Mr. 'Arafat's allegations on Wednesday were the first renewal of such charges since then.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Thursday that Mr. al-Kabariti and Mr. 'Abbas, head of the Palestinian negotiating team with Israel, discussed issues related to Jordanian-PNA cooperation and joint efforts to "realise the hopes of the two peoples" — Jordanians and Palestinians.

"They also discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian self-rule areas and the suffering of the Palestinian people as a result of the Israeli blockade," imposed shortly after the first of four suicide bombings in Israel since Feb. 25.

Mr. al-Kabariti reaffirmed to Mr. 'Abbas Jordan's support for the Palestinian people and outlined the Kingdom's efforts to achieve an end to the Israeli siege of the Palestinian areas. "The Israeli blockade is impeding progress," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. 'Abbas told reporters after the meeting that his visit to Jordan was part of Palestinian moves to "strengthen Arab efforts to help the Palestinian people" and that Jordan was among the Arab countries which could help end the Israeli blockade.

"I presented to the prime minister a complete explanation of the difficult situation faced by the Palestinian people as a result of the blockade," he said.

Mr. 'Abbas ducked questions by reporters on Mr. 'Arafat's comments on Wednesday by saying he was not fully aware of what the Palestinian president had said.

Jordan: 3 Expelled Iraqi Diplomats Identified as 'Intelligence Officers'

JN1404092496 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 14 Apr 96 pp 1, 17

[Report by Ma'mun al-Rawsan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said that the joint Jordanian-U.S. exercises do not aim to threaten Iraq. He added: It is up to the Iraqis if they want to interpret this operation as a threat to them. He said that the fact that the reconnaissance sorties are launched from Jordan "is a message that Jordan is fully committed to the implementation of UN resolutions." He said that the deployment of the U.S. fighter planes was proven to be "the best and most efficient means to train our pilots on flying the F16's before they are officially received next year."

In another development, al-Kabariti said that Jordan found out that three Iraqi diplomats, who recently recently left Amman, belonged, in fact, to the Iraqi intelligence agency. In a statement to reporters, he said that "the diplomats who left were, in fact, officers in the Iraqi military intelligence agency."

Al-Kabariti explained that one of these officers was Husayn Faraj Khalaf, assistant press attache at the Iraqi Embassy, who was expelled on 25 March. Al-Kabariti added that the other two are Consul Salim 'Abd-al-Husayn and Assistant Commercial Attache Hamid Rashid. He said that these two persons were summoned by Baghdad later "after it was revealed, following the expulsion of their colleague, that they were intelligence officers." [passage omitted]

Jordan: Iraqi Delegation Arrives To Buy $100 Million-Worth of Goods

JN1404110596 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Apr 96 p 24

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—An Iraqi economic delegation, representing the Trade and Industry Ministries, yesterday arrived in Amman to sign contracts with Jordanian companies that produce vegetable oil, detergents, and soaps in implementation of the commercial protocol signed by Jordan and Iraq in 1996.

The Iraqi delegation comprises the director general of the State Company for Trading in Foodstuffs, the director general of the State Enterprise for Vegetable Oil, and a number of senior government employees.

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Well-informed sources told AL-DUSTUR that the value of the contracts to import vegetable oil and detergents will be around $100 million.

Rahim Tahir, director of the Iraqi Commercial Department in Amman, said that during their five-day visit, members of the Iraqi delegation will meet with a large number of officials in the Jordanian industrial companies that produce such goods. The delegation members will also meet with officials in the Industry and Trade Ministry and the Jordanian Export Promotion Organization.

The visit falls within the context of the brotherly economic ties between the two countries and aim to strengthen the economic and commercial ties.

The value of the Iraqi-Jordanian commercial protocol stands at around $220 million. According to the protocol, Jordan is paid in crude oil, oil byproducts, and gas for the goods it sells to Iraq.

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Lebanon: Prime Minister al-Hariri Hopes for Arab Support

NC1404073496 Cairo MENA in English 0704 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, 14 Apr (MENA) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today said that his country was capable of protecting its borders once Israel withdraws in implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 425, which was unanimously issued.

In statements to MENA, al-Hariri expressed hope that the Arabs would restore their solidarity especially vis-a-vis Lebanon.

He further said that Lebanon which has called for holding an urgent session of the Security Council hopes that the Arabs would side with Lebanon, while facing an unjustified and fierce aggression.

The Lebanese premier said the Israeli aggression aims at thwarting efforts exerted to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the Mideast region.

Lebanon has just ended a destructive civil war, he said. It is now embarking on reconstruction operations that Israel does not want it to continue, he said.

In a reference to Egypt, al-Hariri said Lebanon has brethren and friends, who will never relinquish it.

Lebanon will continue to be a beacon of liberty and democracy, he said.

Concluding his interview, al-Hariri reiterated that Israel should withdraw from south Lebanon according to international resolutions and international legitimacy.

Lebanon: 'Fourth' Katyusha Salvo Fired on Northern Israel

NC1204160096 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1547 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A fourth salvo of Katyushas was fired a short while ago in the direction of northern Israel and landed in Galilee.

At 1835, an Israeli raid was reported in the area surrounding the deserted Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah.

Moreover, a rocket landed in the western sector [of the security strip] near [words indistinct].

We will keep you posted.

Lebanon: Israelis Fire Missile at Lebanese Army Vehicle, Bomb Jba'

NC1204160896 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1550 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the editor's desk: AFP has cited Lebanese security agencies as saying that Israeli military aircraft this afternoon strafed a Lebanese Army post in Sarba, in the south. There are no reports yet on casualties. The Lebanese security agencies said that Israeli helicopters fired an air-to-surface missile at a Lebanese Army personnel carrier at a military post in Sarba, east of Sidon. At the same time, Israeli warplanes dropped a bomb at the town of Jba', in Iqlim al-Tuffah, but there are no additional details.

Lebanon: SLA Opens 'All Crossings' to 'Safe Haven' Area

NC1204164496 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1625 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Communique issued by the South Lebanese Army Command on 12 April — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In view of the current circumstances and due to human considerations that it believes in and cares for, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] Command has decided to open all crossings for people to seek safe haven in this area [SLA security zone in southern Lebanon], especially for those who have relatives or friends in the border region.

Lebanon: Fadlallah—U.S. Gave Israel Green Light for 'Aggression'

NC1204164696 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Report by Ahmad Khanafir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ayatollah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has saluted the Lebanese Army for confronting Israeli aggression. In his Friday sermon, he said: We want the Army to support the resistance, and we want the government, which issued a good statement, to stand with the resistance so that we all will confront occupation and aggression.

His eminence stressed that the United States gave Israel the green light to translate the Sharm al-Shaykh resolutions into action against Lebanon and against our people in the south and Western al-Biqa'. He said the aggression was carried out with U.S approval and acceptance. He said Israel wants to stay in Lebanon and be free to kill any Lebanese it wishes. Israel is also working to create a gap between the resistance and civilians, and it wants to impose security and political

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conditions on Lebanon and distance it from Syria, he said.

His eminence condemned U.S. support for, bias toward, and justification of the enemy's aggression against Lebanon. He said the United States committed itself to using all methods to enable the Israeli Labor Party to win the elections by giving Israel a free hand to do whatever it wants. Ayatollah Fadlallah stressed that Israel's attempt to impose a new equation will be rejected. He said: We must tell the enemy that raiding the [Beirut southern] suburb is not a picnic, the oppressed will not remain silent. If the United States wanted peace and calm in the region, it has to address the enemy, not Syria and Lebanon, and tell it not to shell civilians, so then its civilians will not be shelled. I say: We do not want any civilian from here or there to be killed, but we will not allow our children to serve as targets for testing Zionist and American weapons. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Qiryat Shemona Targeted by 'New Salvo of Katyushas'

NC1204165996 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1632 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The area of Qiryat Shemona was the target of a new salvo of Katyushas fired from the south a short while ago.

Lebanon: Rockets Hit Hizballah Radio Station, Transmission Stops

NC1204171396 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1644 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Two rockets have hit the communications tower of al-Nur station, which belongs to Hizballah, near the road to Beirut Airport. The radio has stopped transmission as a result.

Lebanon: Raids Resume on Beirut Suburb; Katyusha Salvo Reported

NC1204171896 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1643 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A report carried moments ago said that the Israeli warplanes resumed its raids on the Southern Suburb of Beirut a short while ago.

Additionally, our correspondent in the south has just reported that the latest salvo of Katyushas were fired shortly after 1900 against the areas of the Galilee Panhandle and Western Galilee.

Lebanon: Chirac Telephones Clinton in Bid 'To Calm Situation'

NC1204182896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri received a telephone call from French Ambassador Jean-Pierre La Fonda. The ambassador informed Birri that French President Jacques Chirac had telephoned U.S. President Bill Clinton in a bid to calm the situation.

Lebanon: Beirut Radio Reports New Israeli Air Raids, Shelling

NC1204193896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes are continuing their acts of aggression. Some 15 minutes ago, Israeli planes attacked the villages of western al-Biqa', carrying out intensive raids against 'Ayn al-Tinah, Mashghara, and Suhmur. A short time ago, enemy aircraft flew over Beirut's southern suburb at a high altitude. The town of al-'Izziyah in Tyre district was targeted by three raids launched by enemy Israeli planes. The planes also raided Shaqra and Majdal Silm. Our correspondent in Tyre, Qasim Safa, filed this report:

[Begin Safa recording] Israeli warplanes raided the town of al-Qulaylah, south of Tyre at 2050 [1750 GMT] today. The planes targeted a house at the eastern end of town. A citizen inside the house was injured and taken to Jabal 'Amil hospital in Tyre. At the same time, helicopters raided the towns of Majdal Silm and al-Jumayjimah in the central sector. In Shaqra, raids by Israeli helicopters damaged the house of citizen Jawad al-Amin. Warplanes, helicopters, and reconnaissance planes are still flying over the south, dropping flares intensively. The villages warned by the occupation army are coming under intermittent artillery shelling. [end recording]

Lebanon: 2 SLA Soldiers Wounded by Explosion in 'Security Zone'

TA1204193896 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Two SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers were slightly injured this evening in a bomb explosion. Our military correspondent Avi Lifshitz reports that the bomb was activated against an SLA unit which was on an operational mission on the 'Ali al-Tahir ridge in the central part of the security zone. The casualties were evacuated to a hospital for treatment.

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Lebanon: Al-Hariri Accuses U.S. of 'Encouraging' Israeli Attacks

NC1204194196 Paris AFP in English 1859 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, April 12 (AFP) - The United States is encouraging Israel to launch air and artillery attacks on the Iranian-backed Hizballah in Lebanon, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri charged on Friday [12 April].

He accused US Secretary of State Warren Christopher of "encouraging Israel" after he blamed the Hizballah on Thursday for the Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

Al-Hariri said the US administration was at the same time urging Beirut "to put pressure on the Hizballah," which spearheads resistance to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

"To break the vicious circle we have asked for American and French intervention. (French) President Jacques Chirac told me he had contacted US President Bill Clinton to ask him to calm things down.

"No military solution is capable of ensuring Israel's security," he added.

Christopher said Thursday: "The problem here is whether or not the Hizballah will be restraining itself. Their attacks into northern Israel create a very dangerous situation.

"The parties ought to recognize the way to resolve this problem is for the Katyusha attacks to stop," he said.

Israel launched air and artillery attacks on Hizballah targets in the southern suburbs of Beirut, southern Lebanon and the south of the eastern al-Biqa' Valley on Friday for the second day running.

The attacks left 12 people dead and more than 30 wounded. On Thursday five people were killed in similar raids.

The attacks came after the Hizballah rocketed northern Israel sending Katyusha rockets crashing into the Galilee region. Five Israelis were wounded Friday in the northern town of Qiryat Shemona.

"The Americans know that we cannot go to war on the Hizballah whether we are for or against them as long as Israel occupies our lands," Hariri said.

"The fact that Israel has tried on many occasions and without success to wipe out the Hizballah proves that the solution lies in an Israeli withdrawal."

Earlier the prime minister told the US television network CNN in a live interview: "To stop this vicious circle there is only one way ... to withdraw from our territory."

Lebanon: Buwayz Phones France's de Charette on 'Grave Situation'

NC1204194596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz phoned French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette and briefed him on the grave situation caused by the current major Israeli aggression against Lebanon. de Charette promised to contact Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq in a bid to calm the situation.

A diplomatic source said French President Jacques Chirac is closely watching the situation in Lebanon.

Lebanon: Radio Claims Iranian Embassy Staff 'Escaped' to North

NC1204200196 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources in Beirut have stated that Hizballah members feel bitter toward Tehran and its representatives in Beirut. This is because, on one hand, these representatives have urged Hizballah to confront Israeli attacks. On the other hand, staff members of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut have escaped to northern Lebanon for fear that the Israeli Air Force will strafe the Iranian Embassy in Beirut.

Lebanon: Israeli Forces To Resume Operations at 0100 GMT 12 Apr

NC1204221196 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 2140 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We begin our newscast with communique No. 12, addressed to the south Lebanese citizens: The citizens, who have not yet vacated the villages which were named in previous communiques, must do that during the night and until 0400 [0100 GMT] [on 13 April].

The Israeli army will resume its operations as of 0400 against the Hizballah bases in south Lebanon. Anyone remaining in the villages after 0400 will be responsible for his own life. The Israeli army will open fire during the night at all positions from which Hizballah will open fire. He who forewarns is excused.

Keep listening to Voice of the South, which will continue transmission to help you maintain your safety.

Lebanon: Israel Brings Fresh Reinforcements to Border Strip

NC1304033496 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The intensity of the Israeli attacks, particularly the air raids, have abated as of 2200

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[1900 GMT] last night, due to bad weather conditions. However, the state of tension remains high due to the new reinforcements Israel has brought to the occupied border strip and its threats to continue operations against Hizballah.

Lebanon: Lebanese-Syrian Summit Postponed Because of Bombing

NC1304034096 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An official Lebanese source has stated that the expanded Lebanese-Syrian summit, which was scheduled to be held in Damascus today, has been postponed to a later day due to the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

The source said that President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri will meet at the B'abda Palace today to discuss the situation, in the presence of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Lebanon: Birri on Israeli Threats, U.S. Stance

NC1304050796 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has stressed that Israel is determined to continue to increase its aggression against Lebanon regardless of whether the July [1993] understanding remains or collapses. He linked the Israeli escalation in Lebanon to the heavy pressures on Syria.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR, Birri said that the Israeli threats to dozens of southern villages adjacent to the contact lines are part of the overall threats to Beirut and other areas that aim to create social pressures on the government and confuse the domestic situation.

The speaker added that the Lebanese-Syrian summit that was scheduled to be held yesterday but was postponed was meant to discuss in detail the local and regional developments that caused the situation in the south to explode and the means of retaliation, specifically the diplomatic and political actions that could be taken.

Birri criticized the U.S. Administration for rushing to hold the resistance responsible for the military escalation and the rejection in advance of Lebanon's desire to call a meeting for the Security Council to discuss the aggressions. He said that the U.S. stand is encouraging Israel to persist with its aggression instead of stopping it.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Updates Security Situation 13 Apr

NC1304052796 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0440 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Report by Ibrahim Najdi from Tyre]

[FBIS Translated Text] The enemy's helicopters resumed their raids during the night when they raided Jibal al-Butum before midnight last night, targeting the house of a citizen. Khalil Muhanna, Muhammad 'Atiyah, and Khudr Khiyami were injured. Khiyami is reported to be in a very serious condition. The three were evacuated to the Jabal 'Amil Hospital in Tyre.

This raid was preceded by another helicopter raid on the area between al-Siddiqin and Jibal al-Butum. Four rockets were fired but caused no casualties.

At 0100 today, the enemy's artillery in al-Zuhayriyah, Jabal al-'Asi, started a heavy and concentrated bombardment of Qana with 155 mm shells.

At 0130 today, Zionist helicopters raked the residential areas of Zibqin.

At 0200, the al-'Asi area came under 155 mm bombardment from the enemy position in Yarin.

At 0430, Qana came under fierce and concentrated bombardment with 155 mm shells from the enemy's position in al-Tayyibah.

Wadi [word indistinct] came under heavy bombardment throughout the night. The bombardment is continuing intermittently to this minute.

At 0700, Hannawiyah came under 155 mm artillery bombardment from the enemy's position in al-Zuhayriyah. The bombardment is continuing to this minute.

Reconnaissance aircraft are at this moment flying over Tyre and the surrounding areas at low altitude.

Lebanon: Residential Areas of Marj 'Uyun Rocketed by 'Terrorists'

NC1304060296 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The terrorists renewed their attacks on civilians in the border area last night, particularly on the centers that provide humanitarian and medical aid to citizens.

The Marj 'Uyun Hospital area came under rocket attack last night from the terrorists positions near al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah. Several rockets fell on the residential areas of Marj 'Uyun and al-Qulay'ah.

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Lebanon: Bombardment of Al-Nabatiyah Area Resumed

NC1304060896 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0603 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just been informed that the Zionist bombardment of the deserted Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah has been resumed.

Lebanon: Envoy to Washington—U.S. Demands Halt to Hizballah Actions

NC1304063096 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyad Tabbarah, Lebanon's ambassador in Washington, has told AL-DIYAR that the dialogue with the U.S. Administration has not led to any decisive result. He said that the Americans are stressing their demand for a halt to Hizballah's operations in order to convince Israel to stop its aggressions and are advising a halt to military operations in Lebanon before resorting to the Security Council.

Yesterday, in his meeting with the assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs, Tabbarah said that the U.S. answer was concise and clear: Let Hizballah stop its Katyusha shelling of northern Israel and the Israeli retaliation will stop. If these operations continue, then the escalation will continue.

Lebanon: Israeli Operations Resumed, Air Raid Reported

NC1304071296 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, the Israeli Army resumed its operations against the terrorists' positions and the areas from where Katyusha rockets have been fired after having asked the citizens who could not leave the area due to the bad weather conditions to leave by 0400 today.

Reports said that Israeli warplanes raided the Jibal al-Butum this morning, injuring four persons.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports Israeli Raid on Jibal al-Butum

NC1304072196 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0714 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Zionist warplanes raided the Jibal al-Butum village near Tyre this morning, burning three houses. It is not yet known whether or not residents were inside their houses.

Lebanon: Second Israeli Raid in 'Less Than 10 Minutes' Reported

NC1304073196 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0721 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a security report from the news desk:

For the second time in less than 10 minutes, Israeli warplanes raided the town of Majdal Silm in the central sector and Wadi al-Qaysiyah.

Lebanon: Beirut Radio Reports Israeli Air Raids, Artillery Fire

NC1304073696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today at 0940, Israeli military aircraft raided the town of Jibal al-Butum and fired four heavy-caliber rockets. The towns of Hannawiyah, Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Haddathah, and 'Ayta al-Jabal are now coming under artillery fire.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Western al-Biqa' says the occupation forces are now shelling the road adjacent to 'Ayn al-Tinah.

The radio of agent Lahd's militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] said a salvo of katyusha rockets landed in Marj 'Uyun and al-Qulay'ah.

Israeli terrorism against Lebanon is continuing for the third day in a row. [Israeli] warplanes at dawn today carried out a raid on Jibal al-Butum, where four people were wounded. At 0920, the enemy aircraft flew over Tulin and raided the outskirts of Khirbat Silm and al-Sawwanah. The enemy artillery is bombarding the road between al-Sawwanah and Khirbat Silm and valleys around the two towns.

At 0915, the towns of Kafra, Haris, Yatar, Bra'shit, Tibnin, and Shaqra came under 155-mm artillery fire. At 0845, the towns of al-Ghanduriyah, Frun, Siddiqin, 'Ayn B'al, and Qana were subjected to artillery bombardment. A woman named Maryam Muhanna from the town of Siddiqin was wounded.

Lebanon: More Israeli Raids Reported in Hursh Mahrunah

NC1304073996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0724 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a new security report from the news desk:

Israeli warplanes raided the Hursh Mahrunah area two minutes ago.

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Lebanon: More Israeli Air Raids Reported; Top Officials Meet

NC1304080596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0744 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1030 today, Israeli military aircraft raided the town of Kafra and the outskirts of al-Ramadiyah, Siddiqin, al-Jumayjimah, and al-Sawwanah in the central sector.

Artillery shelling is now taking place against al-Ramadiyah south of Tyre and the outskirts of 'Ayn B'al and Hannawiyah.

This morning's shelling of Kafra wounded citizen Muhammad 'Abd-al-karim and a five-year-old girl named Nagham Bushra. They were taken to the Najm Hospital in Tyre.

A raid is now taking place on the town of Mahrunah.

At 1030, a meeting was held in the B'abda Palace between President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in the presence of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. The conferees are discussing various developments, particularly Israeli aggressions against Lebanon.

Lebanon: Israelis Bring in Heavy Guns; Raids, Shelling Continues

NC1304080996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0753 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes began a raid on Haris township three minutes ago.

Al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah are coming under intermittent shelling. Two shells fell on the eastern part of the al-Sharqiyah township causing heavy physical damage.

Citing an informed military source, AFP reported that the Israeli occupation forces have brought in mobile 170 mm guns from the occupied border strip into Ibil al-Saqy and Markaba.

Lebanon: Pro-Israeli Radio Warns Citizens To Leave Villages, Towns

NC1304084496 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0822 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Communique No. 1 for 13 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hizballah organization is continuing its terrorist operations against northern Israel and the security area. For its part, the Israeli Army is continuing its attacks on the organization's targets wherever they are. Inhabitants of the 45 villages mentioned in the former communiques in the al-Qulaylah, Khirbat Silm, Jibshit, al-Nabatiyah, Yatar, Jabal al-Rayhan, and western al-Biqa' areas who have not yet left their houses must leave them within the coming few hours. Whoever stays in any of the aforementioned villages and towns will be endangering his life. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Town Under Air, Artillery Attack; Schools Open to Displaced

NC1304084696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli occupation aircraft and artillery began a concentrated and violent bombardment against residential areas in the town of al-Sawwanah a short while ago. Clouds of smoke are being seen in these residential areas.

Education Minister Robert Ghanim announced that instructions have been issued to educational zone chiefs in the south, Western al-Biqa', Beirut, and Jabal Lubnan to open public schools to people fleeing areas targeted by the Israeli shelling. Minister Ghanim said these schools have been placed at the disposal of the displaced in coordination with educational zone chiefs and school principals. Minister Ghanim arrived in Western al-Biqa' and began to inspect the villages that had come under shelling. He also visited the wounded in the Jubb Jannin Hospital and inspected areas where people fleeing the shelled areas are gathering.

Lebanon: Israeli Aircraft Raid Tyre City in South

NC1304084996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0839 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A short time ago, Israeli military aircraft carried out three raids on the city of Tyre.

Quoting an official in the Israeli occupation forces, REUTER said Israeli attacks on the south could have been fiercer had it not been for the bad weather.

Lebanon: Civilians Warned Not To Travel From North to South

NC1304085995 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0840 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Communique No. 2 for 13 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] In addition to the former communiques we have issued to the inhabitants of the 45 villages and in order to prevent any possible casualties among civilians who have not left their houses yet and to facilitate their departure, the Israeli Army has decided to keep the roads leading to the north open.

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The Voice of the South advises those who are still in their houses to take this opportunity to leave them as soon as possible.

To prevent the arrival of more reinforcements and assistance to the Hizballah terrorists, the Israeli Army will attack suspicious means of transport that travel toward the south, therefore, civilians should not travel from north to south to avoid danger. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Citizens Warned of Possible Raids on Beirut

NC1304091396 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0853 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report from the news desk:

The Zionist warplanes have been raiding Bra'shit, Shaqra, Safad al-Battikh, and Wadi al-Qaysiyah for some time now while helicopters are raking these towns.

[Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 0853 GMT on 13 April carries the following report: "Security sources expect the Israeli enemy to repeat its air attacks on the Beirut suburbs. The competent security organizations are appealing to the citizens to be cautious and to move only when necessary.

"The Israeli warplanes are flying over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah. The al-Duwayr area and the valley between al-Duwayr and Kufur al-Sharqiyah are coming under bombardment. There is also fierce bombardment of Bra'shit, Shaqra, al-Mashru's al-Akhdar, and Wadi al-Qaysiyah.

"The Israeli occupation forces are raking the areas of Haris, Haddathah, 'Ayta, and nearby areas."

"We repeat that security sources are expecting the Israeli enemy to repeat its air attacks on the southern suburbs, therefore, the competent security organizations are appealing to the citizens to be cautious and move only when necessary."

Lebanon: Government To Request Security Council Meeting

NC1304092096 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0830 GMT 13 Apr 96

[News conference by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents at B'abda Presidential Palace following a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri on 13 April — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Buwayz] The military, social, and political situation was examined. While we believe that Israel is absolutely unjustified in its attacks on Lebanon and in its aggressions on the Lebanese land and people, we have decided to lodge a complaint with the Security Council, hold contacts with member states of the Security Council, and ask the Lebanese mission there to submit this complaint. A request will be made for an urgent and extraordinary meeting of the Arab League. In addition, other international contacts will be made.

In addition, a number of measures have been adopted. A meeting with the heads and representatives of the international organizations will be held at the Foreign Ministry at noon today to provide the social, medical, and humanitarian backing for those displaced by the Israeli shelling. We will remain in touch with friendly states. In addition, close coordination continues with a number of countries to put an end to these aggressions and to prevent the Israeli election atmosphere from benefiting from the implementation of these plans. Thank you.

[Correspondent] The United States has affirmed that it would veto Lebanon's request for....

[Buwayz] We expect the United States to use the veto right whether against a Security Council meeting in principle or a possible resolution to be issued by the Security Council, however, we believe that we must make the Security Council live up to its responsibility, particularly since we cannot accept the logic saying that these aggressions and developments fall within the context of the peace process and, accordingly, the Security Council is not authorized to discuss them. We believe that the Security Council's responsibility toward world security is the council's basic, primary, and constant responsibility. Any political process in the world must not absolve the Security Council of this responsibility.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] to encourage Israel to continue its war against Lebanon? It is no longer a war against Hizballah but a war against Lebanon to destroy its economy and stability.

[Buwayz] Naturally, Israel benefits from this. It has timed this operation in a way that suits the present international atmosphere following the events [bombings] that took place in Israel. From this premise, we are fully aware that the Israeli goals are not confined to limited or transitory operations. There is an attempt to push a number of citizens to flee to the capital with a view

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to confusing the Lebanese Government at the political, social, and economic levels. We also realize that it is trying to push the state toward a collision with the resistance in light of what is happening on the ground. We also realize that through this operation it [Israel] is trying to depict Shim'on Peres as a military commander who is aware of Israel's interests and security. In all cases, I do not wish to delve further into such political analysis. We believe that we have to take political, international, and regional measures.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Buwayz] Absolutely not. The so-called July Understanding consecrates Lebanon's right to resist the Israeli occupation on its territory. What is special about this resistance that we talk about is that it is a resistance on the occupied national soil and a resistance against a regular, aggressive, and occupying army. This is a legitimate and natural right that nobody should take away from Lebanon. Thus, I emphasize that there is no reconsideration of this agreement. On the contrary, we believe that Israel has violated this agreement by broadening the scope of operations to include civilians and villages that have nothing to do with these military operations.

[Correspondent] Have you seen any positive results to the contacts made by President Chirac to restrain the situation?

[Buwayz] The French president yesterday held international contacts, including contacts with President Clinton. I received phone calls last night from French Foreign Minister De Charette, Minister 'Amr Musa, and a number of Arab officials on a bid on their part to keep up with the developments. I believe that this atmosphere will correct the picture that Israel has managed to portray; namely, that it is the victim in this episode. In all cases, another meeting will be held at the [B'abda] palace at 1300. I will go now to the Foreign Ministry where the heads and representatives of the international organizations are meeting with ministry officials. After that, we will return here.

Lebanon: Hizballah Reports More Israeli Raids, Shelling

NC1304092496 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0909 GMT 13 Apr

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli warplanes have renewed their raids on the western and central sectors.

At 1145 today, the warplanes raided 'Ayn al-Mizrab near the [Junayn] township.

The warplanes also raided Siddiqin, Zibqin, Shaqra, al-Sawwanah, Tibnin, and Bra'shit.

The Israeli artillery is continuing its bombardment of the western and central sectors' villages.

Lebanon: Radio Says Citizens 'Human Umbrella' for Hizballah

NC1304095196 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0914 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Communique No. 3 "for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To the inhabitants of south Lebanon: The sabotage organization known as Hizballah continues to recklessly take advantage of you by using you as a human umbrella and staging its operations from your villages and towns.

The firing of katyusha rockets has so far caused the emptying of 45 villages and its residents to allow the Israeli army to run its operations against Hizballah and prevent possible casualties among civilians.

According to the new security equation, Hizballah has not learned the necessary lesson, and it is continuing to fire katyusha rockets as before. More rocket firing means more evacuation because evacuation is necessary to enable the Israeli army to fire back at the source of firing without harming civilians.

Let it be known to everyone that any place where Hizballah members are present is not immune from Israeli army response, not in Tyre, not in Sidon, not in Ba'labakk, and not in Beirut.

If calm does not prevail in Qiryat Shemona, Nahariyya, and Marj 'Uyun, there will be no calm in the aforementioned areas.

Once again, he who warns is excused. This is the Voice of the South straight from ears to hearts.

Lebanon: Radio Warns Israeli Army To Intensify Attacks on Hizballah

NC1304094996 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0928 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Communique No. 4 for 13 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] In light of the continued terrorist actions by Hizballah, the Israeli Army will intensify its activities against the terrorists starting tomorrow, 14 April 1996.

Following the warnings broadcast by the Voice of the South to the inhabitants of 45 villages, any presence in these villages will be considered a terrorist one, that is, the terrorists and all those with them will be hit. Any civilian who lags behind in the aforementioned villages and towns will do so on his own responsibility and will put his life in danger.

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The Israeli Army appeals to the inhabitants of these villages who have not left them yet to leave their houses quickly in order to prevent any unintentional human losses.

Once again, he who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Al-Hariri, Buwayz To Leave for Damascus for 'Consultations'

NC1304095796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0929 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report just in from our news desk: It has been learned that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz will shortly leave for Damascus for consultations. Sources close to the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies say that the prime minister will make a tour that could include Egypt and France. It has been decided to urge humanitarian organizations to provide assistance to Lebanon, which has been stricken by a new Israeli aggression.

It has also been learned that Speaker Birri will request a meeting next week of the Arab parliamentarians, which was scheduled to be held in Damascus on 14 May. It has also been decided to start immediate contacts with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon to lift the siege on the villages isolated and besieged by the Israeli enemy. These villages are left without food and the minimum requirements for survival. These villages are Jabal al-Butm, Zibqin, al-Mansuri, and al-Hinniyah in the Tyre area.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports Raids on Bra'shit, Shaqra

NC1304095896 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0943 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated] Here is a news flash: The Zionist warplanes are now raiding Bra'shit. Earlier, they raided the village of Shaqra.

Lebanon: Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Leave for Syria

NC1304104596 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz have left for Damascus. The Zionist aggression against Lebanon will be the focus of their talks with Syrian officials.

Lebanon: Inhabitants Told To Leave Houses 13 Apr

NC1304110396 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1047 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Communique No. 5 for 13 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] To the inhabitants of the Jibshit-al-Nabatiyah area who have not left yet.

In addition to our previous announcements, you, the inhabitants of this area, are called on to leave your villages and houses between now and 1545, the time when the Israeli Army will carry out its operations in this area.

To recap, we reiterate the previous announcements we made today that any person living near a Hizballah member, office, or base in the area we have identified previously, and specifically in the Jibshit-al-Nabatiyah area, will be the target of the Israeli Army's operations. Anyone who disobeys these instructions and remains in the areas whose inhabitants have been advised to evacuate will do so at his own risk. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopter Reportedly Hit by Islamic Resistance

NC1304113296 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1116 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received a report from the Islamic Resistance operations room that the mujahidin have hit a Zionist Apache helicopter with a SAM-7 missile near the village of [word indistinct]. The helicopter received a direct hit and flew toward the sea, escorted by another helicopter. Smoke was seen coming out from it.

Lebanon: Ambulance Hit Near Tyre; 3 Killed, Dozens Wounded

NC1304113696 Paris AFP in English 1121 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tyre, Lebanon, April 13 (AFP) — At least three civilians were killed and around a dozen others wounded when an Israeli shell hit an ambulance near Tyre on Saturday, an AFP correspondent reported.

Lebanon: Casualty Toll Updated; Israeli Landing Operation Foiled

NC1304113896 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1125 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Until noon today, the Israeli raids and shelling against several areas in the south,

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Western al-Biqa', and Beirut since Thursday morning has left 19 dead and 57 wounded.

In another development, the Amal Movement's operations room has announced that Amal groups at noon today repelled an Israeli landing operation in Shaqra. Amal added that its antiaircraft guns confronted Israeli helicopters that tried to raid the Jibal al-Butm area.

Lebanon: Radio Repeats Call to Inhabitants To Leave Homes

NC1304115396 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1116 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Communique No. 6 "for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To the inhabitants of al-Qulaylah-al-Mansuri area who have not yet left: In addition to our previous announcement, you, the residents of this area, are urged to leave your villages and homes within the period from now until 1615 [1315 GMT]. This is the time when the Israeli army will begin to carry out its operations in this area. To recap, we reiterate what we broadcasted today that anyone residing near a Hizballah member, offices, or bases in the areas we designated earlier, and in the Jibshit-al-Nabatiyah region in particular, will be a target for the Israeli army operations.

Anyone who violates these guidelines and remains in the areas whose residents have been advised to leave will do so at his own risk. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Radio—Downing of Israeli Helicopter 'Confirmed'

NC1304115796 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report from the news desk: In addition to what we have broadcasted regarding the helicopter, the Islamic Resistance has announced that it has hit a Zionist Apache helicopter during its raid on the village of al-Sama'iyah with a SAM-7 rocket fired by the Islamic Resistance mujahidin. Security sources have confirmed that the helicopter was seen crashing into the sea shortly after it was hit.

Lebanon: Islamic Resistance Attack Against Southern Post Reported

NC1304115996 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1150 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report just in from the news desk.

Reports coming from the south a short while ago indicated that violent clashes are raging between the Islamic Resistance fighters and the occupation forces in the al-Dabshah area. The reports indicate that the Islamic Resistance fighters hit the al-Dabshah position with rockets, inflicting casualties on a number of enemy soldiers.

Lebanon: Hizballah Official Reacts to U.S. 'War Against Lebanon'

JN1304124096 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Telephone interview with al-Hajj Husayn Khalil, political assistant of Hizballah's secretary general, by Yusuf Dakkash on 13 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khalil] Following the recent U.S. statements, it is now clear that the United States not only gave Israel the green light for its aggression, but is blatantly leading this war against Lebanon—land, people, government, and people—and is managing Shim'on Peres election campaign on Lebanese soil. It wants to save its protege, Peres.

The United States is misled if it believes that the Lebanese children and women will be fuel for this election campaign or a bridge for the Labor Party to escape its internal impasse within the Jewish society.

We tell Mr. Clinton's administration and all his assistants: It may be possible for you to choose who you want, either from the Labor or from the Likud; this is of no concern to us. But, to decide to burn up Lebanon and commit the most savage massacres against the Lebanese people for the sake of Peres, or to order the Israeli military machine to savagely shell the people and force peace-loving people out of their homes, we will not allow this at all.

[Dakkash] A question on the French stand. President Jacques Chirac is holding intensive contacts with President Clinton and Shim'on Peres. The French Foreign minister held several contacts with big powers and many of his counterparts. How do you view France's current role?

[Khalil] We believe that the barbarous attacks of the Israeli forces from the land, air, and sea, are within the responsibility of the entire international community. The international community, which is seeing Israel's beastly crimes, must act and should not leave the arena free for the United States.

[Dakkash] Do you expect the military operations to continue?

[Khalil] If Israel continues its attacks on civilians, then we will certainly continue to defend our folks and the peace-loving people. Our resistance, which derived its legitimacy from its defense of its land and people,

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will continue to be legitimate as long as there are aggressions against the land, the homeland, and the people in Lebanon.

Lebanon: Hizballah Fires New Round of Rockets at Israeli Settlement

NC1304124696 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1217 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Report by Ahmad Khanafir—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance continues to confront the aggression and retaliate. A short while ago, it fired volleys of Katyusha rockets at the Nahariyya settlement. The Islamic Resistance issued the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O steadfast Lebanese; o sons of our resisting people: This is your heroic resistance continuing its ground and air rocket retaliation, directing its rockets toward the enemy settlements to deter it and fend off its aggression against civilians. At 1445 [1145 GMT] today, volleys of resistance rockets were pouring over Nahariyya, scoring direct hits.

O steadfast Lebanese; o sons of our resisting people. The Islamic resistance maintains its pledge to you that it will be your defender and protector and will force the Zionist terrorists to pay the prices of their crimes and massacres against innocent civilians.

Lebanon: Islamic Resistance Issues Statement on Helicopter Downing

NC1304124996 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance issued a statement a short while ago on the downing of the Zionist helicopter in the Tyre area. The statement said:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, heal the breasts of believers. [Koranic verse] O members of the oppressed Lebanese people. O oppressed people, whom the Zionist enemy is trying to violate your territory and blood and stop your lofty resistance to its tyranny and aggression. We bring to you the good tidings of the surprise blow that the Islamic Resistance has dealt to the Zionist Air Force, which thought it could [words indistinct] you and your steadfastness without being deterred.

At 1415, two Apaches tried to raid the homes of civilians in the village of al-Sama'iyah. One of the two advanced to hit a civilian home while the second provided cover. At that time, the mujahidin of the Islamic Resistance fired an antiaircraft rocket at the first helicopter, which received a direct hit. The helicopter twirled in circles several times and drifted, crashing toward the sea south of Tyre.

O members of our steadfast and generous people: The Islamic Resistance promises to lie in wait for the Zionist enemy, regardless of its means of aggression, be it in the air, sea, or land. It will teach it one lesson after another until it stops its aggression and massacres against children and women and retreats in humiliation without undermining your solid and constant willpower that will continue until the liberation is eliminated.

[Signed] The Islamic Resistance

Lebanon: Islamic Resistance Burns Israeli Tank, Attacks Post

NC1304121696 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1155 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An Islamic Resistance unit from Martyr Naji al-Dubaysi group ambushed a Merkava tank along the road to al-Dabshah post a short while ago. When the tank arrived at the scene of the ambush, the mujahidin directed machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades at it. It received a direct hit, and flames were seen rising from it. The occupation forces are now shelling the area around the al-Dabshah post using smoke bombs, and they are removing the damaged tank. The Islamic Resistance's fire support unit is now shelling the post.

Lebanon: Beirut Radio Reports New Air Raids, Shelling

NC1304141296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1356 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The enemy aircraft are carrying out new raids against Jibshit and the al-Nabatiyah region. The Habbush-al-Nabatiyah road is being bombarded. I repeat: The Israeli air raids are now targeting Jibshit and al-Nabatiyah.

Lebanon: Hamas, Islamic Jihad Threaten Suicide Attacks on Israelis

NC1304141996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1403 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [The Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad in occupied Palestine have issued a joint statement in which they threatened to carry out suicide operations against the the Israeli occupation forces to avenge the Israeli air and artillery attacks against Lebanon that are continuing for the third day running. The statement says: The criminal enemy

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is perpetrating the ugliest crimes against our steadfast Lebanese people in their villages and cities, declaring war on the mujahidin after it declared war against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. By doing so the enemy believes it can stop the resistance and the jihad. The statement accuses the United States of giving the green light to the Israeli attacks.

Lebanon: IDF Comes Under Mortar, Antitank Fire in 'Security Zone'

TA1304152196 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Fighting continues inside the security zone. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] position in the eastern sector of the security zone came under mortar and antitank fire this afternoon. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. The IDF fired back at the terrorists.

Lebanon: Report Says 6 'Martyred' in Attack on Ambulance

NC1304145696 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Relative calm was reported in military operations this afternoon. Only two violations have been registered. The first violation was on the Tyre road, where an Israeli helicopter targeted an ambulance carrying civilians with an air-to-surface missile. As a result, six persons, including four children, were martyred and eight were wounded.

The second violation was a new salvo of katyushas fired at northern Israel. The number of casualties is not yet known.

Lebanon: Islamic Resistance Hits Position; 'Enemy' Commander Inside

NC1304153296 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1514 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago the Islamic Resistance fighters shelled the Haddathah position while an enemy commander was inside it. The position sustained direct and confirmed hits.

Lebanon: Beirut Radio Reports Shelling of New Areas

NC1304145296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This is a direct telephone contact from the news desk:

The township of Kafra has been coming under concentrated enemy shelling for the past five minutes. There is also intermittent shelling of al-Mansuri, al-Qulaylah, Buyut al-Sayyid, and the Ra's al-'Ayn plain. Enemy helicopters are flying over these areas.

Lebanon: Air Raids Continue; Sources Say Hizballah Using Ambulances

NC1304160996 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli military aircraft have continued to strafe the villages of the Jibshit, al-Nabatiyah, al-Qulaylah, and al-Mansuri areas.

Military sources commented on the hitting of an ambulance in the al-Qulaylah-al-Mansuri area saying that the subversive Hizballah organization recently distributed a number of ambulances to villages and towns in south Lebanon that are under its control. These ambulances are taken to medical centers in these towns and villages. Hizballah equipped these ambulances for use in terrorist activities, including the smuggling of terrorists and military equipment through roadblocks. Hizballah members also use these ambulances to fire at the Israeli forces and north Israel, as happened recently. Hizballah activists try to enjoy the immunity of the Red Crescent, exploiting Israel's pledge to honor international charters.

Lebanon: 'Enemy' Helicopters Raid Areas; Hospital Bombarded

NC1304165096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1638 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The hostile air raids continue. Enemy helicopters raided the hills in Kafra and the fields of Dayr Qanun al-Nahr at 1915 [1615 GMT].

The enemy planes raided ('Ayn al-Mizrab) in Tibnit at 1815.

The occupation artillery targeted Tibnin hospital with three shells.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopters Raid Civilian Car Near Tyre

NC1304174196 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1725 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Enemy helicopters raided a civilian car on the Rishknaniyah-Siddiqin road in Tyre District at 2015 [1715 GMT]. We will offer you more details when they are available.

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Lebanon: Israeli Aircraft Raid Area in Tyre District

NC1304164196 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1626 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli enemy aircraft raided a valley that lies between the al-Hinniyah and al-'Izziyah villages in the Tyre District shortly after 1900 [1600 GMT] this evening.

Lebanon: Village Shelled To Prevent UNIFIL From Evacuating Citizens

NC1304181296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1745 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This is an urgent report from the news desk: As the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] was trying to evacuate more than 150 people who were unable to leave their homes in al-Mansuri because of the Israeli siege, the occupation forces continued to shell the town. Enemy helicopters also raided the main road between al-Qulaylah and al-Mansuri to obstruct the UNIFIL mission.

Lebanon: Hizballah Calls For Mobilization, Suicide Commandos

NC1304182596 Paris AFP in English 1803 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, April 13 (AFP) — The Iranian-backed Hizballah called on Saturday [13 April] for a mobilization of its forces and ordered its "suicide commandos" to take up position after three days of Israeli bombings.

The secretary general of the Moslem Shiite group, Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, asked his suicide bombers to "take up positions assigned to them and to prepare to join God to avenge the murders of women and children," a press statement said.

An Israeli helicopter on Saturday destroyed a packed ambulance killing six refugees, all members of the same family, as they fled a blitz on Hizballah guerrillas which has driven 200,000 Lebanese from their homes.

The incident raised the death toll in Israel's three-day "Operation Grapes of Wrath" targetted at the Hizballah to 25 with about 80 wounded, mostly civilians.

Lebanon: Nasrallah Calls 'Suicidal Companies' To Take Positions

NC1304183396 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah has called for a general mobilization of all the members of the party and its loyalists to confront the Israeli aggression.

He invited those he called the suicidal companies [Saraya al-Istishhadiyyin] to set out in the direction of their stations to prepare for meeting their creator in his statement.

Lebanon: Hizballah Fires New Salvo of Katyushas

NC1304184796 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1829 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has announced that it fired a new salvo of Katyushas at northern Israel around 2115 [1815].

Lebanon: Israel Reports 'Good Hits' in Raids on 'Terrorist Targets'

TA1304192496 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Air Force planes raided terrorist targets in the areas of Wadi al-Ghaziyah and al-Qissisiyah, north of the security zone in south Lebanon, in the past few hours. Our army affairs correspondent Avi Lifshitz reports that the targets that came under attack serve Hizballah as katyusha launching sites. The pilots reported good hits and returned safely to base.

Lebanon: 'Enemy' Shelling, Raid Reported; More Katyushas Fired

NC1304194496 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1916 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The villages of al-Sultaniyah, Siddiqin, Khirbat Silm, al-Qulaylah, Zibqin, Haris, Kafra, Yatar, Majdal Silm, Tulin, Tibnin, and Jibal al-Butm are now coming under heavy enemy bombardment.

At 2150 [1850 GMT] enemy helicopters raided the village of Siddiqin, targeting a civilian car. It is not known if there are any casualties.

In another development, the Islamic Resistance announced that at 2140 it fired a new salvo of katyushas at Israeli settlements. The Islamic Resistance announced earlier that at 1915 it fired Katyushas at Nahariyya and Ga'ton settlements.

Lebanon: Hizballah Announces New Salvo at Israeli Settlement

NC1304200896 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1957 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has announced that it fired a third salvo of Katyushas at northern Israel at 2205 local time [1905 GMT]. A spokesman for Hizballah has said that this salvo targeted the (Yafat Ma'ula) settlement.

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Lebanon: 'Resistance' Reportedly Downs Israeli Cobra

NC1304202096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2011 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Security sources a short while ago said that the ground defenses of the Resistance have downed an Israeli Cobra in the area of al-Nabatiyah.

In another development, the hostile bombardment continues against the townships of al-Sultaniyah Bi'r al-Salasil, 'Ayn al-Mizrab, Bra'shit, and Shaqra.

Moreover, the sound of antiaircraft fire was heard clearly in the capital, Beirut. This coincided with enemy overflights.

Lebanon: Buwayz 'Insists' on UNSC Meeting, Expects U.S. 'Veto'

JN1304211796 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Apr 96

[From the "Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that Lebanon insists that the UN Security Council meet to discuss the situation in Lebanon. It seems that Lebanon insists on this step toward the United Nations while showing pessimism toward the United States which is expected to veto any international resolution. This Lebanese stand was voiced by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Damascus this afternoon where he accompanied Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who will leave for Cairo tomorrow and from there to Paris where President Chirac will receive him.

At a news conference, our correspondent in Damascus Thana' al-Imam asked Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz about a possible U.S. veto. The Lebanese minister said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] Of course, we expect that the United States will resort to the veto. In spite of this, we believe we should place the UN Security Council before its responsibilities and refute the interpretation that the UN Security Council is not qualified with the existence of a peace process. We believe that the UN Security Council remains the first and basic authority with respect to the settlement of security disputes threats to world security. Even if there are peace initiatives or processes, this does not absolve the UN Security Council from its responsibilities toward this issue.

From this premise, [words indistinct] the veto by the United States, whether with respect to a Security Council meeting or any resolution it might adopt in this respect. We insist that the UN Security Council assume its responsibilities. If it fails [words indistinct] let it explain to the world that the United Nations and the Security Council [words indistinct]. If the Security Council meets and adopts a sound resolution, then it will have enhanced its credibility worldwide. [end recording]

Lebanon: IDF Continues Air Raids, Gives Lebanese Villagers Ultimatum

TA1404043496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] ordered the residents of Tyre and another 40 towns and villages in the sectors of Tyre, al-Nabatiyah, al-Zahrani, and the western al-Biqa' to leave the area by 0900 [0600 GMT] this morning. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the IDF announcement said that the residents would be allowed to move from their settlements northward without hindrance, but that anyone moving southward would be attacked.

Last night, Israel Air Force jets resumed their attacks on terrorist targets in all sectors north of the security zone. An IDF spokesman reported that the planes returned safely to base. The pilots reported accurate hits. The targets attacked served as sites for Hizballah activity.

Things were quiet in northern Israel last night after several katyusha rockets landed in Qiryat Shemona and the western Galilee yesterday evening. There were no casualties, and only minor damage was caused. President 'Ezer Weizman spent the night in one of the northern border settlements.

Lebanon: Citizens of Tyre, Others Asked To Leave

NC1404044796 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0436 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli army has asked the citizens of Tyre and the surrounding areas, al-Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and Western al-Biqa' to leave these areas by 0900 [0600 GMT].

Lebanon: Radio Reports Extension of Evacuation Deadline

NC1404054196 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0503 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Communique No. 1 "for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Out of concern for the inhabitants of the city of Tyre and the villages that have been warned to leave by 0900 [0600 GMT] today, the Israeli army decided to extend this deadline to 1100 [0800 GMT], that is two more hours.

We reiterate and remind everyone that anyone who does not leave his home quickly will subject himself to danger at his own risk.

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We read the names of places that are to be evacuated following the firing of katyusha rockets by Hizballah last night to enable the Israeli army to run its operations against Hizballah without harming civilians. The places are: The city of Tyre, al-Qadiyah, Qana, Kunaysah, Sha'tiyah, Hannawiyah, 'Ayn B'al, Mahrunah, Jwayya, al-Majdil, Dayr Natar, Tayr Dibna, Kafr Dulin, Qalawayh, Sil'ah, Bilj Qalawayh, Dardaghayyah, Srifa, Frun, Zrariyah, Durayqi', 'Aba, Ansar, Zibdin, Haruf, Duwayr, Sharqiyah, Zifta, Dayr al-Zahrani, Habbush, al-Kufur, Mayriyah, Kharbah, Khartilah, al-Luwayzah, Mazra'at 'Ayn Bu Siwar, 'Ayn al-Tinah, Yuhmur al-Biqa', Libbaya, and Zillaya.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio on Israeli Raids, Katyushas

NC1404060696 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0543 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 0300 today, Zionist warplanes raided Mashgharah in western al-Biqa', destroying a two-story house. In retaliation for the Zionist attacks against the defenseless citizens, the Islamic Resistance fired scores of katyushas at Zionist settlements, north of occupied Palestine, inflicting several casualties. At 0600 today, the Islamic Resistance fired several salvos of rockets at the Zionist settlements. [passage omitted]

We have just been informed by the news desk that the township of Shaqra has been coming under fierce Zionist bombardment since 0800 today. Elsewhere, al-Qa'qa'iyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah are also coming under shelling. At 0820, Zionist warplanes raided a house in Jba'.

Lebanon: IDF Extends Ultimatum to Tyre Area Residents by 2 Hours

TA1404062096 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has extended by two hours the ultimatum to the residents of Tyre and the surrounding villages to leave their homes. Our army affairs correspondent Avi Lifshitz reports that the ultimatum, which was slated to expire in 30 minutes, was extended until 1100 [0800 GMT] this morning. The IDF has warned the residents of Tyre and another 40 villages nearby that anyone in the area after 1100 will bear the responsibility for placing his or her life in danger.

Lebanon: Israeli Jets Destroy Building, Areas Shelled

NC1404064496 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0632 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk: So far 200 shells landed on the periphery of the Tibnin Hospital. Elsewhere, [Israeli] warplanes raided and destroyed a building between Jibshit and 'Abda a short while ago. Meanwhile, the outskirts of Jibshit are coming under fierce bombardment at the rate of three shells per minute. At 0745, the Israelis shelled the outskirts of Qana and 'Ayn al-Ramadiyah with 155-mm rounds.

Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Raid Jibshit

NC1404065396 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0642 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners, Zionist warplanes carried out two air raids on Jibshit a short while ago. The Zionist aircraft continue to fly over the area.

Lebanon: Hizballah's Nasrallah Declares 'General Mobilization'

NC1404064996 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Recording of "appeal" by Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

(?In light) of the developments in our heroic and honorable confrontation against [words indistinct] Zionist Jews, killers of prophets, and in anticipation of any incidental development in the field, I declare a general mobilization in the ranks of the Hizballah mujahidin in Lebanon. I call on them to be on (?full) readiness on all levels and to strictly obey the orders and instructions of the brothers in the Islamic Resistance command.

I also call on all mujahidin brothers who belong to the companies of martyrdom seekers to join the centers that have been designated for them in advance. I also call on them to be completely ready to meet Almighty God, his messenger, and the loved ones. O brave mujahidin, O great martyrdom seekers: These are the days of God, the days of his promise and victory. These are the days when jihad and martyrdom are sweet. Victory in [word indistinct] banners. [passage omitted] Rise up so that we can protect our nation from humiliation, prevent the killing of our people, and end the occupation of our land. Rise up for the promised victory, the banners of jihad, and muzzles of guns so that the enemy can be crushed, defeated, and regretful. [passage omitted]

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Lebanon: Buwayz Views Israeli Military Operations, Lebanese Contacts

JN1404070496 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that the Israeli military operations against Lebanon emanated from internal electoral considerations in Israel.

At a news conference held in Damascus last night, Buwayz added that these operations aim to consolidate the electoral position of Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. They also express the contradictions dictated by the military situation in Israel at the expense of the political situation, he added.

Asked about the objectives of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's visit and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, Buwayz said: In the wake of the Israeli aggression and the siege of the Beirut port yesterday and the continued raids, it was natural for us to hold consultations with the Syrian leadership and exchange views on all these developments.

Buwayz added: We are holding continued consultations on the eve of making intensive contacts with several states. Hence, came this visit to Damascus.

Asked about the possibility of a U.S. veto against Lebanon's request to hold a special UN Security Council session on the Israeli attacks, Buwayz said that he expects a U.S. veto. He added: We, however, believe that we should urge the Security Council to assume its responsibilities.

Buwayz expressed the belief that the Security Council continues to be the first and basic term of reference to resolve security conflicts and address the threats to world security.

Asked whether Lebanon held contacts with the U.S. Administration, Buwayz said that there are continued contacts on what is taking place in Lebanon. He said: We consider the U.S. position, which showed understanding of the Israeli military operations, as unacceptable and unreasonable. This is because the United States is fully aware that Israel is the party that attacked innocent civilians, thus violating the July agreement.

Asked to comment on the recent statements made by Israeli Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq who said that the aggression will last two weeks, Buwayz said that Israeli aggression against Lebanon is not new. He expressed hope that the Israeli leadership would fully understand that the only solution lies in Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Replying to a question on the existence of a Syrian-Egyptian-French move regarding the current situation in Lebanon, Buwayz said that there is accurate and continued Syrian follow-up on the situation in Lebanon, and that there is great Egyptian and French interest.

Buwayz pointed out that the ongoing Israeli attacks on Lebanon warrant the interest of states in the region and all states that care for the peace process.

Concerning the measures taken by the Lebanese Government with regard to the people displaced from southern Lebanon, Buwayz said he believed that by totally expelling civilians from southern Lebanon to Beirut, Israel seeks to embarrass the Lebanese Government on various levels. Israel might also try to expand its occupation of Lebanese territory, he added.

Buwayz asserted that the Lebanese Government took intensive measures on the health, security, and social levels, in addition to the current political and diplomatic measures and contacts.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio on Firing of Katyushas

NC1404070496 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0652 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Israeli] warplanes raided Siddiqin at 0930 [0630 GMT]. Our correspondent has just told us that a new salvo of katyusha rockets was fired at Zionist settlements.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports Firing of Katyshas on Israel

NC1404071096 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0656 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in the south has reported that dozens of Katyusha rockets are being fired at this moment on the settlements of [Milan Barukh], [Sukmata, [Jad'awn] , Qiryat Shemona, and Metulla.

Lebanon: IAF Strikes Hizballah Targets; Pilots Report Accurate Hits

TA1404072096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0703 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has just announced that Israel Air Force [IAF] jets again attacked Hizballah targets north of the security zone a short while ago. All our planes returned safely to base. The pilots reported accurate hits against their targets.

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Lebanon: Islamic Resistance Says 4th Katyusha Salvo Fired

NC1404073196 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0720 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our security correspondent in the south has just informed us that the Islamic Resistance has fired a fourth salvo of katyusha rockets against the enemy settlements north of occupied Palestine.

Meanwhile, Zionist warplanes have raided the police post in Jba'.

Lebanon: Israeli Raids, Flights Over Beirut Reported

NC1404074096 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0723 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We were just informed that an Islamic charity vehicle was hit by a rocket fired by a Zionist helicopter near Tyre. Four persons were injured.

We were also informed that the Zionist warplanes are flying over the capital, Beirut, drawing anti-aircraft fire.

Another report from the news desk: Zionist warplanes launched two raids on the deserted Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah a short time ago and another raid east of Yatar.

Another report just in says that Zionist warplanes raided a residential building in Hayy al-Bayyad in al-Nabatiyah five minutes ago.

Lebanon: More Katyushas Fired; 3 Injured in Police Post Raid

NC1404075396 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0744 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk: Katyusha rockets are now falling on all of the settlements north of occupied Palestine. Elsewhere, the air raid on the police post in Jba' left the post chief and two internal security members injured.

Lebanon: Citizens Reminded of Evacuation Deadline

NC1404081896 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0748 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Communique No. 2 "for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now that the deadline for the evacuation of the area, which must be vacated by 1100 [0800 GMT], is nearing, we remind all citizens not to hesitate in leaving the area and the town and that they must keep away from any terrorist member of Hizballah because this organization is using them as a protective umbrella. The Israeli air force will strike at the terrorists mercilessly. Anyone who fails to leave will be subjecting himself to grave danger. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: More Raids on al-Nabatiyah Reported

NC1404082196 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0759 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist warplanes raided the deserted army barracks in al-Nabatiyah 10 minutes ago. They also raided the area between Kafra and Haris.

Lebanon: Israeli Aircraft Raid Jibshit

NC1404083296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0820 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just been informed that the enemy warplanes have raided the residential areas of Jibshit and the al-Bayadir area in Haruf.

Lebanon: Israeli Aircraft Sorties Over al-Biqa' Reported

NC1404083796 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0827 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report from the news desk: Zionist warplanes are flying over al-Biqa', specifically over al-Nabi Shit and Janta.

Zionist aircraft also raided the outskirts of Jibshit five minutes ago.

Lebanon: Residents Permitted To Use Tyre-Sidon Road Until 1200 GMT

NC1404084796 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0830 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Communique No. 3 "for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to appeals by some of the Tyre residents who are encountering difficulties in leaving and out of the Israeli army's desire to facilitate their leaving, it has been decided to allow transportation to take place between Tyre and Sidon in both directions until 1500 [1200 GMT], but moving to the south on other roads is still prohibited.

Lebanon: Shaqra, Bra'shit Residents Warned To Leave 'Immediately'

NC1404085396 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0841 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] To the residents of Shaqra and Bra'shit: In addition to the instructions for the evacuation of these two villages, we urge the residents

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who are still there to leave them immediately or else they will be subjected to Israeli army gunfire. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Hizballah Threatens To Turn Israeli Settlements Into 'Hell'

NC1404085996 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0840 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A reliable Hizballah source has stated that the Islamic Resistance will turn the Zionist settlements in northern occupied Palestine into hell and will prevent any settler from returning to them as long as the south is being subjected to Zionist aggression.

The source stressed that the resistance's rockets are targeting all the settlements and called on those who have remained in the shelters there not to leave them because they will be shelled continuously and no form of life will be allowed in them.

Lebanon: City Chief, 95 Percent of Tyre Residents Flee to North

NC1404080296 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0730 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] After speaking with a number of people who fled from Tyre to Sidon, our correspondent in Sidon reports that 95 percent of Tyre residents have left the city for the north. Only a small number of people remain in the city.

The correspondent adds that Hizballah members are roaming the city freely and that the people who have fled are concerned about their homes and property. It seems that Muhammad Qabalan, district officer of Tyre, was the first to leave his city. The evidence of this is that our correspondent tried to phone him on no. 74000 but no one replied. Our correspondent also met with the head of the fishermen in Tyre, Muhammad Bawwab, who said the fishermen are simple people working to support their families, and they never cooperated with Hizballah saboteurs. Others who fled Tyre city expressed anger at the existence of bases for saboteurs in their city and near their homes. They wondered how long they will remain away from their homes.

As of now, our correspondents are trying hard to contact district officer Muhammad Qabalan for an interview.

Lebanon: Resistance Fighters Attack Post

NC1404091196 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0852 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The mujahidin of the Islamic Resistance began an attack on the Sujud position with machine guns and rockets 10 minutes ago while Zionist warplanes are raiding Ma'rub and Kafr Tibnit.

Lebanon: IAF Conducts 'Fourth' Raid on Hizballah Targets

TA1404091496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel Air Force [IAF] jets this morning attacked Hizballah targets in Khirbat Silm and al-Nabatiyah. This was the fourth raid on Hizballah targets this morning. All our planes returned safely to base. The pilots reported accurate hits on their targets.

Lebanon: Israeli Raid, Islamic Resistance Katyusha Attacks Reported

NC1404092796 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0912 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We were informed a short time ago that Zionist military aircraft raided Hayy al-Maslakh in al-Nabatiyah.

Meanwhile, Katyusha rockets are still falling on Zionist settlements north of occupied Palestine. The Islamic Resistance targeted residential areas of these settlements with a new volley of rockets.

Lebanon: More Katyusha Attacks, Israeli Raids Reported

NC1404093696 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0919 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1205 today, the Islamic Resistance fired a new salvo of katyushas on the 'Alma settlement in northern occupied Palestine.

The body of Lahdist [South Lebanese Army] soldier killed by the Islamic Resistance is still on the ground in the Sujud position. The post's garrison has not been able to remove it to this minute.

At 1145, Zionist warplanes raided the house of citizen Hasan Bitar near the deserted Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah. The enemy planes also raided the house of Husayn Wahbih in Haruf.

Another report just in: The Islamic Resistance fired a salvo of katyushas on the Zionist settlement of Yuval a few minutes ago.

Lebanon: Another Israeli Settlement Rocketed by 'Resistance'

NC1404094596 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0936 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The heroes of the Islamic Resistance fired a new salvo of katyushas on the Zionist

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settlement of Goren in northern occupied Palestine at 1230 today.

Lebanon: Israeli Jets Attack Power Station in Beirut

NC1404094896 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0935 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report from the news desk: Israeli warplanes raided the power station in the al-Jumhur area [in Beirut] a minute ago. Initial reports said that the station received direct hits.

Lebanon: More Israeli Air Raids on South, Beirut Reported

NC1404100696 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist military aircraft raided the town of 'Ayn al-Tinah in Western al-Biqa' at 1235 today. At the same time, enemy aircraft carried out two raids on the town of Libbaya. The enemy planes are still flying at low altitude over Western al-Biqa' and being confronted by antiaircraft guns.

Meanwhile, Zionist aircraft renewed their attacks on Beirut. They bombed in the vicinity of the power station in al-Jumhur area at 1235.

Lebanon: More 'Resistance' Attacks, Israeli Raids Reported

NC1404101096 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0952 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The heroes of the Islamic Resistance fired a new salvo of katyushas on the Margaliyyot settlement in occupied Galilee at 1250.

At 1245, Zionist warplanes raided a house under construction near the Anglican School in al-Nabatiyah.

At the same time, Zionist helicopters raided Dayr al-Salasil.

Lebanon: Katyushas Fired on Qiryat Shemona

NC1404101296 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0959 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Zionist warplanes raided the hills of 'Ayn al-Tinah five minutes ago. At the same time, the Islamic Resistance fired another salvo of katyushas on the [Israeli settlement] of Qiryat Shemona.

Lebanon: More Area Residents Asked To Leave by 1500 GMT

NC1404102596 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1012 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Communique No. 4 "for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of the new equation and in the wake of the firing of katyushas on Israel's northern region by Hizballah, the Israeli army has declared that all of the residents of the Lebanese villages and towns south of al-Litani must leave their homes and villages before 1800 [1500 GMT]. Anyone remaining in his home and village after 1800 will be risking his life. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: 2 Villages Under Shelling; Israeli Planes Bomb House

NC1404103196 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1021 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The villages of 'Atshit and Haruf have been coming under Zionist artillery barrage for five minutes. Hostile aircraft have raided the home of Faris Harb in Zawtar al-Sharqiyah.

Lebanon: Habbush Bridge, Bra'shit Under Violent Israeli Barrage

NC1404103596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1025 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Habbush Bridge and Bra'shit are coming under violent and concentrated Zionist artillery barrage.

Lebanon: Israeli Planes Raid Beirut's Southern Suburb

NC1404103796 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1029 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A few minutes ago, Zionist helicopters raided the southern suburb of Beirut. They fired at least one missile.

Lebanon: More Israeli Air Raids, Bombardment Reported

NC1404105396 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1040 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist military aircraft at 1335 today launched an air raid on the area between the al-Maslakh quarter and the al-Ta'mir quarter. At the same time, the warplanes raided the area between the al-Maslakh quarter and the Lebanese army's abandoned barracks in al-Nabatiyah.

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Karf Rumman is coming under artillery barrage. A few moments ago, Zionist warplanes broke the sound barrier over Sidon.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopters Fire Rockets at Beirut Suburb

NC1404105696 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1048 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist helicopters have been carrying out intensive air strikes against the civilian quarters in [Beirut's] southern suburbs since 1330. The Zionist helicopters have so far fired 12 rockets at the residential areas. The Zionist aircraft continue to fly over the sea and al-Awza'i area.

Lebanon: Yuhmur Home Raided, Mock Raids Over al-Nabatiyah Reported

NC1404110396 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1049 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1330, Israeli warplanes raided Yuhmur, targeting the home of Nabil Ghayth. The Iqlim al-Tuffah hills are coming under violent 175-mm bombardment. Israeli warplanes are flying repeatedly over the south and launching mock raids over al-Nabatiyah.

Lebanon: Continuing Israeli Air Raids on South Reported

NC1404111096 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic GMT 1058 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist military aircraft launched four air raids on Majdal Silm and another on al-Maslakh quarter in al-Nabatiyah a few minutes ago. Approximately 10 minutes ago, the hostile warplanes launched an air raid on Majdal Silm and another on the area between Haris and al-Sultaniyah.

Lebanon: Israeli Warships Bombard Beirut's Southern Suburb

NC1404112496 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1104 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist warships are now bombarding Beirut's southern suburb. Earlier, Israeli helicopters staged several raids on the southern suburb, targeting specifically the al-Ghubayrah and Harat Hurayk areas.

Lebanon: IDF Hits Hizballah 'Intelligence' Target in Beirut

TA1404112396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1108 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is an announcement by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman: The Hizballah headquarters continue to freely operate in Beirut and are instructing their activists to continue firing katyusha rockets and carry out terrorist attacks against Israel.

Israel Air Force [IAF] assault helicopters attacked a target in Beirut used by Hizballah's security and intelligence apparatuses — this, in retaliation for the firing of katyusha rockets at Qiryat Shemona and the Galilee Panhandle this morning. All the IAF aircraft returned safely to base, and the pilots reported direct hits. This was an announcement by an IDF spokesman.

Lebanon: Security Sources Warn of Objects Dropped by Israeli Planes

NC1404112896 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1110 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Security sources in Beirut's southern suburbs have warned that hostile aircraft have dropped strange objects in several areas. These objects are likely to be booby-trapped and so the citizens are asked to be vigilant.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Claims More Katyushas Fired at Israel

NC1404113196 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1122 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A new salvo of Katyusha rockets landed in the 'Alma settlement at 1415 today.

Lebanon: Raids Injure 6; Power Station Out of Operation

NC1404114096 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1122 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes raided the southern suburb shortly before 1400, drawing antiaircraft fire. Preliminary reports said that the Israeli bombardment of the suburb left six people injured. The Voice of Light radio station, the mouthpiece of Hizballah, asked the citizens to remain in shelters.

According to a military source, at 1415 today, Israeli warplanes raided the power station in al-Jamhur, damaging some high voltage lines that feed Beirut with power. A source at the Lebanese Electricity Company said that four air-to-surface missiles hit the station, putting it out of operation. We have been informed that four generators have been destroyed by the raid.

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Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports Israeli Shelling, Air Raids

NC1404121296 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hayy al-Bayyad area in al-Nabatiyah is now being subjected to concentrated artillery shelling. Likewise, the villages of 'Abbab, Burayqi', and Kafr Sir are coming under heavy artillery bombardment. Elsewhere, enemy aircraft staged a raid against the al-Dima'iyah town a few minutes ago.

Lebanon: Hizballah Reports New Round of Katyushas on Northern Israel

NC1404122596 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1209 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] New rounds of katyusha rockets fired by the Islamic Resistance five minutes ago fell on the settlements of [Ged'on], Nahariyya, and Goren.

Lebanon: More Katyusha Rockets Fired at Israeli Settlements

NC1404122996 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1150 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the editors desk: At 1420, the Islamic Resistance, in retaliation for the Zionist acts of aggression, fired two salvos of Katyusha rockets at the settlement of Yesud Ham Ma'ala.

Another report just in: The Islamic Resistance fired a new salvo of Katyusha rockets moments ago at the [Fati Ali'azar] settlement. We have just heard that the fire support unit of the Islamic Resistance succeeded in destroying a long-range Howitzer artillery piece in the Hula plain.

Just in: The Islamic Resistance fire support unit destroyed another Zionist artillery weapon at 1425 today. Three minutes ago, a new salvo of Katyusha rockets was fired at the (Milan Barukh) settlement.

Lebanon: Katyusha Rockets Fired at Shelomi Settlement

NC1404123296 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1220 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the editors desk: Ten minutes ago, the Islamic Resistance fired a new salvo of Katyusha rockets at the Shelomi settlement in northern occupied Palestine. Zionist security sources confirmed that there were casualties among the settlers, and there was extensive property damage.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio's Antennas Hit by Israeli Raid

NC1404123696 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1228 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Enemy aircraft attacked the antennas of the Voice of the Oppressed in al-Qantarah in the Janta hills. The ground defenses intercepted the raiding planes. The enemy planes continue to fly over the area.

Lebanon: 3 Israeli Air Raids on Sribbin Crossroads Reported

NC1404132596 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1302 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist warplanes carried out three raids at the Sribbin crossroads at 1540 [1240 GMT].

Lebanon: 'Enemy' Warplanes Raid Outskirts of Tyre

NC1404134596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1434 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just been informed that the enemy warplanes are now raiding the outskirts of Tyre, specifically the al-Shawakir area.

Lebanon: Israeli Planes Fly Over North Lebanon

NC1404135896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1350 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1640 [1340 GMT] today, Israeli enemy aircraft flew at high altitude over North Lebanon.

Lebanon: Northern Ba'labakk Area Raided; Hizballah Hits Zefat

NC1404140696 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1356 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just been informed that Israeli warplanes raided an area near Nahlah, in northern Ba'labakk, a short while ago. Hizballah has announced that it fired katyushas at Zefat, a town in northern Israel, this afternoon, thus targeting for the first time a town that is relatively far from the borders with Lebanon.

Lebanon: Israeli Planes Raid Hizballah Radio Transmission Tower

NC1404144896 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1419 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest news on the escalating security situation is a raid by Israeli warplanes on

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an area near Nahlah in northern Ba'labakk about 20 minutes ago. The raid targeted a transmission tower for the Radio of the Oppressed [Hizballah radio].

Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Raid Palestinian Camp Near Tripoli

NC1404145596 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1437 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report just in from the newsdesk: AFP quoted a Palestinian source a short while ago as saying that Israeli warplanes at 1700 [1400 GMT] this afternoon bombarded the al-Biddawi camp for Palestinian refugees in the north, which is near Tripoli. The source pointed out that the raid had targeted offices of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, which is led by Ahmad Jibril.

Lebanon: Hizballah Claims Downing of Pilotless Plane Over Ba'labakk

NC1404145796 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to our correspondent in al-Biqa', Hizballah has announced it shot down an MK pilotless reconnaissance plane over al-Biqa'. Hizballah sources said the pilotless plane fell over the Buday area in Ba'labakk.

Lebanon: Citizens Refuse To Ride Ambulances Used by Hizballah

NC1404160796 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1540 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources in the south have informed us that in light of reports that Hizballah elements are using ambulances to move around for terrorist and sabotage purposes, thus making these ambulances a target for Israeli bombardment, wounded citizens refuse to be taken to hospitals by these ambulances. They even turn down any medical service offered by these ambulances. Some citizens in Sidon have held Hizballah elements responsible for their coming under Israeli fire as a result of using these vehicles for transportation.

Lebanon: Al-Hirawi Receives Phones Calls From al-Asad, King Husayn

NC1404160296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for an exchange of views on the latest developments in Lebanon. President al-Hirawi received a similar telephone call from King Husayn of Jordan.

Lebanon: Buwayz on Efforts To End Fighting

NC1404154096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1405 GMT 14 Apr 96

[News conference by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 14 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Buwayz] We have held intensive contacts with a number of friendly countries. Yesterday we held contacts with Syria regarding the situation and asked our brothers and friends to take steps in support of Lebanon. We have held contacts with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, French Foreign Minister Herve De Charette, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and a number of other personalities. Today we summoned the ambassadors of the permanent members of the Security Council, the Arab states, the EU, Latin American states, and Asian states. We have called on their countries to summon the ambassadors of the big powers and to support the Lebanese stand and demands at the UN Security Council. In addition, a number of other ministers, particularly the Egyptian and French foreign ministers, are holding contacts and seeking to reach a cease-fire. We have conveyed the Lebanese stand to the United States, which has been holding contacts with us for the past few days to bring about compliance with the so-called July Agreement [reached between Israel and Hizballah after a week of air raids in July 1993].

We have informed everyone that Lebanon agrees to this demand, that is, Lebanon agrees to adhere to the July Agreement. Our contacts with the Syrians yesterday were for the purpose of again abiding by this agreement, which has been violated by Israel—if a cease-fire is reached. Clearly, this agreement establishes a certain equation stipulating that the Lebanese resistance refrain from firing rockets at the Israeli border villages in return for the Israeli army refraining from attacking Lebanese civilians, and keeping the conflict between the military forces inside the occupied territory. Clearly, Israel has repeatedly violated this agreement through bombardment of homes and residential areas claiming that there were fighters in these areas and of other civilian targets using other claims.

For us, a return to this agreement for the time being represents an acceptable mechanism to impose a cease-fire, halt the Israeli acts of aggression, and put an end to the current deterioration. Of course, this does not mean that we believe that this situation in itself provides a solution. A solution must be political and provide for total Israeli withdrawal behind the internationally recognized borders to enable the Lebanese Government to extend its authority through its own forces. This is the

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solution that Israel has rejected for years. Israel refused this solution at the negotiations in Washington and until now in the peace process Israel has not put forward any proposal that may lead to such a result.

Pending a substantial political solution, the Lebanese Government does not object to making every possible endeavor to implement the so-called July Agreement. We are waiting for the results of the endeavors of a number of countries to reach a cease-fire on this basis.

[Correspondent] Does the Israeli party agree to return to the July Agreement, or does it have new conditions for a cease-fire?

[Buwayz] In fact, there are contradictions in the Israeli official stands. There are signals regarding this agreement. When the Israeli party speaks of a cease-fire based on refraining from firing rockets, it suggests that it agrees to implement this agreement. However, these stands are contradictory. The Israeli foreign minister is still saying the opposite in his other statements and contacts. He sometimes says that they do not agree to commit themselves to this agreement.

[Correspondent] Does Hizballah accept this agreement in the wake of the current fighting. Are there any contacts with the Hizballah leadership?

[Buwayz] If an understanding is reached on a cease-fire on the basis of this agreement, the Lebanese Government and some friendly countries will dictate that both parties comply with it.

[Correspondent] You met with President Hafiz al-Asad. Does he support the Lebanese moves on the Arab and international levels and the resistance?

[Buwayz] Syria supports the Lebanese Government in every step it takes on the diplomatic, political, international, and Arab levels and in the field. I believe that should the other party agree to comply with this agreement, Syria will spare no effort to support us toward this end.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] confront the Israeli onslaught on Lebanon militarily?

[Buwayz] We consider that Lebanon is coming under Israeli aggression and any political support or any backing [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] Perhaps the Israeli acts of aggression are motivated by domestic election considerations and perhaps there are differences between the political and military authorities in Israel. What are the considerations that make the Americans take a stand that is completely aligned with the Israelis. Are there also election considerations for their stand?

[Buwayz] A number of countries support Peres and this support is even considered a priority for them. Perhaps this issue influences the stance of more than one country and makes them ignore the Israeli aggression against and violation of Lebanese territory.

[Correspondent] have you reached an agreement with French Foreign Minister de Charette on a fixed date for a cease-fire?

[Buwayz] Minister de Charette is making contacts aimed at reaching such an agreement. If he succeeds, we may agree on a certain date to implement such an understanding.

[Correspondent] Did Ambassador Jones convey to you a verbal message from Warren Christopher?

[Buwayz] The U.S. ambassador to Lebanon notified us of the U.S. policy and intention to make efforts to pacify the situation. I think that the United States believes that compliance by all parties with the July Agreement is for the time being a possible and reasonable framework.

[Correspondent] Are the Israelis proposing amendments to the July Agreement?

[Buwayz] We have not heard a proposal to amend this agreement from the United States.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] Ambassador Jones, given the seriousness of these acts of aggression that have reached Beirut, may destroy the situation in Lebanon?

[Buwayz] We briefed all foreign ambassadors on the delicate situation and the real Israeli goals. I doubt that any country is still unaware of the reality of the situation.

[Correspondent] Have you sensed from the ambassadors you met today an intention to support the Lebanese position at the Security Council and in the Arab League?

[Buwayz] The Arab League secretary general informed us that there is clear support in the Arab League from the responses he received regarding participation in the Arab League meeting on Lebanon. Also, most Arab countries have expressed their support in the statements they made. Regarding the Security Council, there was an attempt to torpedo the meeting. It has been confirmed that a meeting will take place and this is a good step even though it is incomplete. We expect that certain countries will hold both the Lebanese and Israeli parties responsible. We also expect that certain countries will use the veto to any clear resolution. For us it is high time that the Security Council assumed its responsibility and expressed its views if it is indeed still the supreme authority in the world in terms of

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responsibility for world security. This provides an opportunity to emphasize its authority. If it is true that there is an imbalance and obstruction of the work of the world bodies, we will make sure that there is no longer any international body for authorities to resort to.

[Correspondent] Are you going to meet with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri at the B'abda Palace?

[Buwayz] Yes, we will meet at the Presidential Palace at about 1800 [1500 GMT] today.

Lebanon: Beirut Radio Denies Israeli Planes Attacked al-Baddawi Camp

NC1404163096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1610 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Antiaircraft fire was directed from the al-Baddawi camp at Israeli enemy flying at high altitude at 1715 [1415 GMT] today. Contrary to foreign news agency reports, no Israeli air attack took place against the al-Baddawi camp.

Lebanon: Katyusha Falls on UNIFIL Headquarters in al-Naqurah

NC1404165696 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An officer in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] has stated that a katyusha fell today on the UNIFIL headquarters in al-Naqurah, on the Lebanese-Israeli borders.

Lebanon: Army Issues Communique on Fourth Day of Israeli Attacks

NC1404172796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Communique issued by the Guidance Department of the Lebanese Army Command on 14 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the fourth day running Israel has continued its aggression against Lebanon, shelling Lebanese civilians in their villages and on the roads, inflicting casualties, causing extensive material damage, blockading sea ports, and targeting the country's infrastructure.

The following villages and towns came under artillery bombardment: Jarju', al-Luwayzah, 'Ayn Qana, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Mlita, al-Nabatiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Tibnin, al-Ramadiyah, Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, Ra's al-'Ayn, and Tyre. Israeli warplanes also intensified their air strikes, targeting most villages and towns in southern Lebanon, western al-Biqa', Beirut's Southern Suburb, the power station in al-Jumhur, and the outskirts of the town of Ba'labakk in al-Biqa' Valley.

Eleven citizens have been wounded as a result of these attacks. The exodus of inhabitants is continuing under the pressure of the constant threats. By this evening over 15,000 civilians have been counted moving in the direction of Beirut.

Lebanon: Iqlim al-Tuffah Under Constant Artillery Bombardment

NC1404183096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1740 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Since 2015 [1715 GMT] the areas of Jabal Safi, Mlita, al-Luwayzah, Mlikh, and al-Rayhan in Iqlim al-Tuffah have been coming under constant Israeli artillery bombardment.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopter Said Hit; Shelling Reported

NC1404183296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1817 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in Tibnin has just reported that the resistance's antiaircraft guns hit an Israeli Apache Helicopter. The helicopter was seen burning and heading toward the occupied territories. Meanwhile, intensive flights have been reported over Burj Qallawiyah, al-Sawwanah, Tulin, and Qabrikha. Intermitting shelling of Tulin, [name indistinct], and Burj Qallawiyah is being heard.

Lebanon: Army Reportedly To Arrest Gunmen Using Ambulances

NC1404184596 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to security sources in Lebanon, following the announcements that Hizballah uses ambulances to transport its members, the Lebanese army has decided to arrest any gunmen using ambulances and every ambulance that raises suspicions that it is in Hizballah service. Orders issued by the Lebanese army emphasize that gunmen in ambulances must be detained. These sources say that these orders indicate that the army command is suspicious about the use of ambulances and prompted the issuance of these orders to limit Hizballah activities.

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Lebanon: Buwayz on Demands, Arab Position, Peres Statement

NC1504171596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Apr 96

[News conference by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 15 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Buwayz] Lebanon has four basic demands for the UN Security Council:

1. Obtaining an immediate halt to the Israeli aggression and the withdrawal of all the Israeli troops that have entered Lebanon.

2. Implementing Security Council Resolution 425.

3. Condemning Israel for the acts it has perpetrated.

4. Passing a recommendation on a relief program.

In the condemnation clause, we call for condemning Israel for both its aggression against Lebanese women, children, and the elderly and its aggression against historical sites, which represent a basic treasure for the world and part of the history of all humanity. Today's attack on the historical sites of Tyre, a 6000-year old city, is an attack not only against Lebanon but against world culture and heritage. Every country in the world has part of its history in this city and in other historical cities.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, in a statement yesterday, Shim'on Peres said Israel rejects the July agreement. What do you think? How long will this escalation continue?

[Buwayz] I would like to repeat something I said a few days ago: Viewing the Israeli aggression as merely a reaction, as the world media tried to portray it from the beginning, is absolutely wrong. The Israeli operations are planned; we had information about them a long time ago. Several weeks ago, and from this very place, hints were made about preparations for these operations. There are political motives for this. This Israeli campaign is linked to the Israeli elections; it seeks to safeguard Peres' position. Israel, secondly, seeks to ease tension between its military and political establishments by trying to expand the border strip and force Lebanese citizens to flee toward Beirut to confuse the government. Let us agree, then, that there is a political objective for this aggression; it is not a reaction to something that took place or did not take place in the south. Anyway, Israel did not need an excuse to engage in this politically-motivated plan.

[Correspondent] Mr. minister, what do you expect from the Arab League meeting?

[Buwayz] The Arab countries are following developments and expressing support for Lebanon. We sensed this from the positions that have been expressed. I believe that the Arab countries that will participate in the Arab League meeting in Cairo Wednesday will take a unified position toward the Israeli aggressions based on the plan Lebanon will offer.

[Correspondent] Mr. minister, did you add anything to the Lebanese complaint [to the Security Council] concerning the naval blockade [words indistinct]

[Buwayz] Of course. Lebanon's complaint proceeds from the principle of the Israeli aggression itself and enters into the details of this aggression as it targets citizens, property, public and vital facilities, and — today unfortunately — historical treasures.

Lebanon: 70 Suicide Bombers Vow Revenge on U.S., Israel

NC1404191096 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1847 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This is a new report from the news desk: Some 70 martyrdom-seekers this evening swore to offer their lives to take revenge against Israel and the United States. They took the oath wearing military uniforms, covering their faces with black paint, and wrapping their waists with explosives.

The al-Manar television, the mouthpiece of Hizballah, showed the martyrdom-seekers lining up in a room with walls adorned by Hizballah's green flags. They paraded in front of their commander, each connecting the explosives around his waist. Addressing them, the commander said: At the orders of Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, the commander of the armed forces and Hizballah secretary general, we stand here today, we who are eager to join the convoys of martyrs, including Shaykh Raghib Harb, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, and Yahya 'Ayyash. The oath then starts. The commander says, and they repeat after him: We swear by the blood of our children that we will blow up our bodies to rock the earth under the feet of our enemies, Israel and the United States.

Lebanon: Chirac Asks de Charette To Leave for Middle East

NC1404193596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The French Foreign Ministry has announced that French President Jacques Chirac has asked Foreign Minister Herve de Charette to leave for

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the Middle East to work with the parties concerned to calm the situation on the Lebanese front.

Lebanon: Syrian Delegation Delivers Medical Equipment, Supplies

JN1404194896 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese Health Minister Marwan Hamadah received a Syrian health delegation this afternoon. The delegation is led by Dr. Husam 'Atiyah and includes 12 doctors, eight nurses, and seven drivers.

The delegation delivered Syrian medical aid, including four ambulances, two cars with an X-ray machines, and a car to transport doctors, as well as first aid and emergency equipment.

The Syrian delivery was distributed to centers for displaced people in Beirut, al-Biqa', and Mount Lebanon. The people at these centers were forced from their homes as a result of the continued brutal Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

The Lebanese health minister said he welcomes and values this generous step by sister Syria.

Lebanon: Southern Radio Names Villages Under Artillery Bombardment

NC1404203096 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 2005 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Army has stepped up its military activity. Reports coming from outside the [Israeli occupied] border zone indicate that the artillery bombardment has become noticeably strong against al-Sama'iyah, al-Shi'aytiyah, al-Hinniyah, Hannawiyah, Qana, Kafra, and Yatar. After 2000 [1700 GMT] this evening, Israeli aircraft resumed their flights over Beirut and its Southern Suburb. Reports added that the Israeli warplanes drew anti aircraft fire, but all planes returned safely to base. It has also been reported that Israeli warplanes raided Qabrikha.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopters Attack al-Hinniyah in Tyre District

NC1404204896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2038 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli helicopters launched two raids on al-Hinniyah village in the Tyre District a short while ago. The areas of Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah are coming under artillery bombardment.

Lebanon: Radio Questions 'Paradox' in Definition of Terrorism

NC1404210096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2040 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Unscheduled Talk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen. We and all the free men in the world ask: Why is the bullet fired in the direction of the usurped land called terrorism while the unjust and ugly occupation is not called terrorism? Why is confronting injustice and murder illegitimate while the wholesale massacres of innocent people are justified? This hideous paradox is rejected by those who have rights and lands.

Lebanon: Villagers Warned To Leave Before Start of Israeli Action

NC1504051896 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0404 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Communique No. 1 "for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This is a warning to the inhabitants of Yatar, Haddathah, al-Sultaniyah, 'Arab Salim, Kafr Tibnit, 'Ayn Qana, and Habbush.

Starting at 0800 today, the Israeli Army will be operating in these villages against Hizballah members who are endangering your lives and possessions. Anyone who remains in these villages or near them by that time will be putting his life in danger. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Hizballah Claims Responsibility for Galilee Dawn Shelling

NC1504052796 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A new salvo of Katyusha rockets fell at 0530 this morning on the Galilee Panhandle in northern Israel. Hizballah declared its responsibility for launching these rockets a short while ago.

Israeli artillery shelling was reported this morning on al-Nabatiyah, while Israeli warplanes flew extensively over the same area. At 0645 today, al-Nabatiyah, particularly the al-Saraya district, came under shelling.

Lebanon: Israeli Air Force Raids al-Nabatiyah, Other Villages

NC1504052896 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes are at this moment carrying out air raids on Yatar, after Hizballah terrorists fired many rockets from it towards northern

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Israel this morning. The Israeli Air Force is raiding terrorist targets in al-Nabatiyah, Jibshit, Mayfadun, Saqra, Bra'shit, and Khirbit Silm after warning civilians that they must leave these towns. It is worth noting that the Hizballah terrorists are now in al-Nabatiyah, among the civilian citizens. The Israeli Army yesterday demolished the house of 'Abdallah al-Bitar, who caused al-Nabatiyah and its environs to be exposed to danger. We have just received reports that other homes in al-Nabatiyah will be demolished today.

Lebanon: More Israeli Raids, Bombardment Reported

NC1504052996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0510 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A report just in says that the enemy's helicopters raided Yatar a short time ago, targeting a house near a Nepalese contingent post. 'Ayn B'al, Hannawiyah, and al-Bazuriyah are still coming under concentrated bombardment.

Lebanon: Beirut Radio Updates Security Situation 15 Apr

NC1504053996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0440 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a round-up of the latest security developments:

At 0715 [0415 GMT] today, enemy warplanes raided al-Bazuriyah, hitting a fuel depot in the town.

A report just in said that all areas of al-Nabatiyah, al-Kufur, Jibshit, and Haruf are coming under concentrated Israeli 155 mm artillery bombardment. The report also said that Majdal Silm, which is adjacent to the occupied strip, is also under bombardment. Five persons were injured, two of them seriously. The town's inhabitants appealed to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] to operate an ambulance and evacuate the wounded to hospitals, specially as the enemy is targeting ambulances and the town is within direct range of the enemy's artillery, whose aircraft is flying over the town all the time.

At 0655 today, four 155 mm shells fell on Yatar. Shells of the same caliber also fell on the Wadi Nirian in Yatar.

At 0700, five 155 mm shells were fired from the Tallat Humayyid on Bra'shit in the central sector while helicopters were flying over Majdal Silm in the central sector. The Lebanese Resistance Brigades-Amal are using their antiaircraft guns against the enemy.

At 0650, four 155 mm shells fell on Khirbat Silm in the central sector, specifically on a confectionery factory belonging to the Saqqa family.

Warplanes and reconnaissance planes are continuing to fly over the central sector.

Al-Kufur, Jibshit, and Haruf were bombarded this morning, following a bombardment during the night of the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Kafr Tibnit.

A UNIFIL source said a Merkava tank in Tallat Bra'shit fired four shells, which fell on Shaqra in the central sector at 0617 today. Two 155 mm shells fell 100 meters from the Nepalese contingent post in Jibal al-Butm. Sixteen 155 mm shells fell on Yatar. At around 0630, four shells on Kafra township.

The UNIFIL source said most of the shells are falling around the Nepalese contingent's positions.

The Israeli artillery bombarded Shaqra and Bra'shit at 0527 today with 155 mm shells from their positions in Tallat al-Muhaydib.

At 0552, two 155 mm shells fell on Kafra from Tallat al-Balat.

At 0558, two raids were carried out on Jibal al-Butm. At 0615, two other raids were staged on the outskirts of al-Bazuriyah. Damages are not known yet.

The Israeli warplanes are continuing their flights over the central sector.

The Islamic Resistance said that five katyusha rockets were fired at 0615 on the Qiryat Shemona settlement.

Lebanon: Hizballah Says 6 Israeli Raids on Tyre, Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1504054296 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah announced a short while ago that at dawn today Israeli warplanes raided Tyre and Iqlim al-Tuffah six times, injuring one citizen. Israeli warplanes also flew over Beirut and its environs and the major coastal towns in the south. The Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Sidon.

Lebanon: Correspondent Gives Live Update of Security Developments

NC1504061796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0540 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Dispatch from correspondent Musa Harb from the central sector — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The enemy's warplanes and long range artillery, deployed on and behind the international borders, began 10 minutes ago the systematic destruction of the Khirbat Silm village. Shells are falling

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at the rate of five a minute on the town's residential areas while the enemy's planes, flying near and behind the borders, are firing their long range missiles on this town.

At the same time, Majdal Silm is coming under a similar bombardment. A citizen was injured in this town this morning, not five as we had earlier reported.

The conditions here are very difficult. The conditions of the citizens who have taken shelter in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon posts are difficult. It is difficult for them to obtain food or sleep. They try to go back to their houses from time to time to bring some food.

I can say that all the enemy's military operations and his claims that he is striking the [Islamic] Resistance are futile. The Resistance sources have confirmed to me that the enemy has so far failed to hit a single artillery piece or a rocket launcher anywhere in the south. All the enemy has done so far is to fire on civilian vehicles, specially ambulances.

While the enemy is warning the citizens to leave their towns, he lies in wait for them on the public road and fires at them.

The Resistance, despite its lack of technological capabilities and small quantities of weapons, succeeded yesterday in hitting an enemy's hard target. It hit a 155 mm artillery gun, which the enemy admitted. [passage omitted]

At this moment, I can see the bombardment and the pillars of smoke. Rockets are now falling on al-Sawwanah and Majdal Silm. I can also say that the enemy is firing artillery shells even from behind the international borders and from his positions adjacent to the occupied strip. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Israeli Air Sorties Over Beirut Reported

NC1504062196 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The town of Habbush is at this moment coming under artillery bombardment from the occupation forces.

The bombardment of al-Nabatiyah set on fire a petrol station on the Shukin-al-Nabatiyah road.

The enemy warplanes have been flying over Beirut at high altitude since the morning.

Lebanon: Israeli Landing Attempt Repulsed

NC1504070496 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0646 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Dispatch from correspondent Musa Harb in the central sector — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Four enemy helicopters attempted a landing operation in Majdal Silm three minutes ago. They prepared for this attempt with several air raids and intensive artillery bombardment. We already reported before that the enemy destroyed a number of houses one hour ago in Khirbat Silm and al-Sawwanah. But the Resistance fighters fired a number of rockets. I heard the sound of heavy machinegun fire confronting these helicopters. I saw with my own eyes how these huge helicopters returned behind the international borders. You can now hear the sound of warplanes flying over me and Majdal Silm and trying to raid this town.

Lebanon: Pro-Israeli Radio Repeats Warning To Leave Southern Towns

NC1504071096 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0645 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Communique No. 2 "for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Army has been continuing since this morning its operations against Hizballah targets in the towns and villages that we named in our earlier broadcasts, including the city of Tyre.

Hizballah is continuing to use the residential areas in the south as a cover for carrying out its terrorist actions against the border area and Israel.

We are addressing this appeal to all those who are still dithering and staying in their houses and warn them that they are putting their life at risk. We tell those who are still in Tyre that they are risking their lives and must leave the city very quickly and not to remain in it after 1200 today.

Finally, we remind you that traffic movement northward is allowed, while movement southward is completely banned. Whoever travels southward will be endangering his life. He who has forewarned is excused.

Lebanon: Further Warnings To Leave South Issued

NC1504072296 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0708 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Communique No. 3 "for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Army is continuing operations it started this morning in the al-Nabatiyah area.

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To enable the citizens who have not left their houses yet to do so, the Israeli Army has left the al-Nabatiyah-Dayr al-Zahrani and the coastal roads open and secure for the next few hours. Citizens should seize this opportunity to leave their residences immediately, because anyone who stays where he is will be doing so on his own responsibility. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Air Raid on Mahrunah Town, Tyre Province Reported

NC1504072396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago we learned that the Israeli Air Force carried out a raid at 0907 local time [0607 GMT] on the al-Ksarah area in Mahrunah town in Tyre province. In addition, we have learned that the civil defense forces, despite the shelling and military operations, are putting out fires in the homes and shops that are being shelled in al-Nabatiyah.

Lebanon: Israeli Attacks Reported on Four Axes

NC1504080596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli warplanes raided al-Bazuriyah township and targeted a civilian vehicle. Its passengers fled to nearby buildings, but the enemy planes chased them there.

Our correspondent reported that at 0940 [0640 GMT] today, Israeli warplanes raided the Wadi Jilu area, while other planes raided al-Mansurah.

The correspondent also reported that the enemy planes and artillery started five minutes ago a heavy and concentrated bombardment of Majdal Silm, using fission bombs and 240 mm shells. These are falling on the street where Judge Ahmad Shawqi al-Amin lives and on the town's square. More reports from the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Tyre:

[Begin recording] The Israeli attacks were resumed at 0900 today. The concentrated artillery bombardment targeted the towns of the central and western sectors, in particular several houses in Majdal Silm, Khirbat Silm, al-Bazuriyah, Hannawiyah, 'Ayn B'al, Yatar, and Kafra.

At 0910, Kafra, particularly its residential areas, came under heavy artillery bombardment. Sources reported that shells are raining on Mahrunah, al-Sawwanah, Khirbat Silm, Majdal Silm, and other villages in the central sector.

The Israeli attacks are taking place on four axes. The first runs from Dirdghayya to Frun, the second from al-Bazuriyah to Shaqra', the third from 'Ayn B'al to Kafra, and the fourth axis from Dayr Qanun and Ra's al-'Ayn to al-Mansurah and Majdal Zun.

At 0930 today, Dayr 'Amis was the target of three raids. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Lebanon: SLA Command Issues Instructions to Drivers

NC1504083896 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0756 GMT 15 Apr 96

["Warning" issued by the South Lebanese Army Command—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The South Lebanese Army—SLA command bans travel of cars with drivers not accompanied by another person, at least, in the car. It also asks all drivers to have all their identity cards, personal documents, and car papers on them. They should have license plates on the front and back of the car. Every violation of these instructions exposes the driver to the danger of being fired on without warning.

Issued by the SLA Command.

Lebanon: Security Situation Updated; Warship Appears Off Sidon

NC1504084396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0802 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes raided Yatar, Majdal Silm, and Khirbat Silm a short time ago.

Israeli artillery bombardment of government offices in al-Nabaityah also resumed.

Our correspondent in the south reported that the Israeli occupation forces are sending more naval vessels to the area off the coast of Tyre.

Wadi Jilu is coming under concentrated artillery bombardment and raids by helicopters on shops and commercial premises.

The civil defense team of the Islamic Scouts Group announced that it has succeeded in evacuating 15 families from Haris and installing them in a secure building in the Tyre area.

Our correspondent also reported that the hills of Libbaya in western al-Biqa' have been coming under 155 mm artillery bombardment since 1015 [0715 GMT] from the occupation forces positions in Wadi Abu Qamhah. Around 15 artillery shells have fallen so far.

Security sources have denied a report by some media organs that two persons were killed in the raids on Libbaya and said this report is baseless.

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A security source reported that the Israeli forces warned the inhabitants of 'Ayn Qinya, Shwayya, and Zaghlah not to use the Zaghlah-Mimis-Zummarayya crossing point road.

At 0935, the enemy planes raided the outskirts of Majdal Zun.

At 0940, a warship carrying three helicopters appeared off the Sidon coast.

The Islamic Resistance fired two salvos of katyusha rockets a short time ago on the 'Alma and Metulla settlements. An Israeli military spokesman admitted a short time ago that a salvo of katyusha rockets fell on Upper Galilee this morning.

Lebanon: Information Minister Comments on al-Hariri's Activities

NC1504084996 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Information Minister Farid Makari, in Beirut, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Miliji] Mr. minister, we welcome you to this dialogue.

[Makari] Thank you very much.

[Al-Miliji] To start with, we would like to learn, in brief, about conditions in Lebanon as a result of Israeli air raids and artillery and missile shelling?

[Makari] Actually, it is probably difficult for us to explain this matter in view of the attacks on Lebanon during the past 48 hours or three days. In fact, we now have over 250,000 to 300,000 displaced people from southern Lebanon and the al-Biqa'. In addition, there are attacks on civilians in all these areas, and there are many dead and wounded people. Also, the infrastructure installations of the Lebanese state, which were renovated during the past few years as a result of the serious efforts of the Lebanese Government to rebuild the country, have been hit. We are not looking at material damage only in this regard. In fact, the Lebanese people are very patient and able to assume responsibilities. But, it seems the international community turns a blind eye to the situation in Lebanon and allows Israel to carry out terrorist acts in Lebanon. They disregard the basic reasons that led to this situation and that the Lebanese state is not the one that attacked Israel. On the contrary, the Israeli state is the one that attacked Lebanon and occupied its territories. They see some of the small events that take place at the end of the problem, such as allegations that Hizballah is firing some rockets, forgetting that they are the ones who started the shelling, despite the fact that there was the July Understanding, which stipulates that Lebanese citizens should not be attacked. Actually, the situation requires intervention from all the brothers who love Lebanon and those who believe in human rights and the rights of states to protect themselves. These matters should be taken into consideration.

[Al-Miliji] Minister Makari, Lebanese information minister, in your opinion, what are the reasons that prompted Israel to wage such a fierce attack on Lebanon at this time?

[Makari] Actually, I believe that there are many reasons. One of them is an internal Israeli situation regarding the elections in Israel and the Shim'on Peres Government's attempts to give the impression that it is concerned about peace in northern Israel. This is one of the reasons. Of course, there are other reasons, such as the negotiations. Perhaps, the honorable stance Lebanon is taking, in cooperation with the Syrian brothers, regarding reaching a just and permanent peace is completely different from the peace Israel wants. Therefore, there are attempts to put pressure on Lebanon, and on Syria through Lebanon, for the sake of future peace talks.

[Al-Miliji] Regarding Lebanon's preparedness - the preparedness of the government and the Armed Forces - to confront the aggression, could you brief us on the scope of these preparations?

[Makari] In fact, we cannot claim at all that we have the military capability to resist Israel. We are actually a peaceful country now paying attention to rebuilding itself. We do have our Army, which is ready to carry out all its duties. But, I do not believe that our military size can confront the size of the Israeli Army. As a Lebanese Government and Lebanese people who are united, we will undoubtedly do our utmost to take into consideration the humanitarian conditions of the people in the south and al-Biqa' and anywhere else where there are attacks on the Lebanese. We will provide them with the facilities to remain steadfast, as much as we can.

[Al-Miliji] What about coordination between you and sister Syria?

[Makari] Coordination with Syria is always good. However, I do not believe that we are in a situation where the Israelis can drag us into a war with them. The timing is not right for us, but it could be right for them.

[Al-Miliji] Mr. minister, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has toured a number of Arab countries and visited Paris. His tour started in Damascus, and then Cairo. He then travelled to Europe. Could we learn something about these Lebanese activities?

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[Makari] Actually, I believe that the meetings the prime minister is holding, and the media reportage on these meetings, are only normal. It is only natural for us to hold talks with our Syrian brothers, because this is something relating to the two of us. In addition, we always know President Husni Mubarak's stance, who has always loved Lebanon. Of course, he is in a position to hold talks with the other parties. Prime Minister al-Hariri is doing his utmost through coordination with Lebanon and Syria and reaching understanding with President Mubarak. In actual fact, he is trying to apply some pressure in order to realize a solution to the current problem and stop these Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

[Al-Miliji] The French president recently visited Lebanon. Prime Minister al-Hariri's talks with the French president come as a result of this visit and the recent Israeli attacks. To what extent do you expect a French role to stop this aggression?

[Makari] Actually, there is no doubt that we consider France and its president friends of Lebanon. President Chirac takes a great interest in Lebanese affairs. However, in the same way we look to France, we believe Egypt is also a friendly country that can put enough pressure to stop these massacres. We also turn to all other friendly countries. We always rely on our closest friends, since it is their duty to help Lebanon and they understand the circumstances Lebanon is going through. They understand that Lebanon is the victim of aggression and that we are not the ones attacking Israel.

[Al-Miliji] Dear listeners, at the end of this dialogue we thank you and Lebanese Information Minister Farid Makari, who was with us on the phone from the Lebanese capital Beirut. Mr. minister, we thank you.

[Makari] Thank you.

Lebanon: Birri Visits Tyre, Talks to Figures, UNIFIL Spokesman

NC1504085796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0807 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri arrived in Tyre at 1030 [0730 GMT] today. He headed to the place where he will meet with figures and prominent persons of the city, inspect the settlements of the displaced people, and view the destroyed villages. Our correspondent in Tyre sends this dispatch on Leader Birri's tour of the displaced people's settlements in Tyre and its villages.

[Begin recording] Speaker Nabih Birri arrived in Tyre at around 1040 local time. His first stop was at the city's town hall, where he met with prominent persons of the city and Tyre Governor Husayn Qabalan. Birri was accompanied by Deputy Ahmad Suwayd and a number of other parliamentary and governmental figures. In a quick statement, Birri said this conspiracy is not against Hizballah only. It targets the whole of Lebanon and wants to destroy its institutions, infrastructure, and the achievements of national peace and reconciliation. After that, Speaker Birri toured the areas where the displaced people are camping out. His first stop was the logistics' headquarters of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL]. There, he met with the displaced people and was briefed on their requirements and the serious activities of the Higher Relief Council and the Emergency Committee set up in Tyre. During his meetings at the UNIFIL logistics' headquarters in Tyre, he held a telephone contact with the UNIFIL Official Spokesman Timor Goksel in al-Naqurah. [end recording]

Lebanon: Radio Refutes Al-Hariri's Claim on Hizballah Presence

NC1504090196 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in Paris reported that his excellency Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri was interviewed by French Television Channel 1. In this interview, he said that Hizballah does not have a presence in Tyre now.

We draw the attention of his excellency Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to the AFP report of 14 April on the situation in Tyre. The report said that a senior Hizballah official in Tyre announced that Hizballah has closed down its information office in the city for security reasons and that the organization's members are operating from mobile centers. Therefore, we beg his excellency al-Hariri to obtain his latest information about the Hizballah offices and its many members in Tyre from Haj Hasan Habballah and his comrades, who were the reason for the evacuation of Tyre and who will be the reason for all the misfortunes that this city will face.

Lebanon: Islamic Resistance Fires Katyushas on Qiryat Shemona

NC1504092396 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0840 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago, the Islamic Resistance fired two new salvos of katyusha rockets on Qiryat Shemona.

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Lebanon: Birri Tells Tyre Village Residents Not To Leave Tyre

NC1504093296 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0834 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri asked the people of Tyre to stay in the city, despite the Israeli warning issued to its residents and the residents of villages around it of the need to evacuate. Speaker Birri said in a press statement: I tell our people who have been forced to leave the villages to stay in Tyre, which has been abandoned by more than half its residents. In parallel with this, sources close to Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who is currently in the French capital, expect diplomatic efforts by Cairo and Paris to succeed in calming the situation down within the next few days.

Lebanon: Islamic Resistance Tells Settlers Life 'Will Turn To Hell'

NC1504095296 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0916 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes are now targetting the center of Tyre. We were also informed that at 1140 [0840 GMT] local time, two new salvos of katyusha rockets were fired toward the settlements of (Saqmata) and (Harqif).

Hizballah earlier announced that it fired 9 new salvos of katyusha rockets between 0430 and 1130 local time on the settlements of Qiryat Shemona, Zar'it, (al-'Abbad), Metulla, 'Alma, and Nahariyya.

A responsible source from the Islamic Resistance warned Israel that life in the settlements in northern Palestine will turn to hell if Israel continues its aggression on Lebanon. The same source warned the settlers in these settlements of the need to evacuate them at once.

The shelling of al-Nabatiyah continues in a violent and concentrated manner. At the same time, the area around al-Najdah al-Sha'biyah Hospital is coming under artillery fire.

Lebanon: Security Sources—'Strange Objects' Dropped by Enemy Planes

NC1504103796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1021 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have been informed that the security sources have warned against some strange objects that have been thrown by the enemy planes in the areas that have come, and are still coming, under shelling. Citizens are asked not to get close to these objects or touch them. Citizens should also contact the closest military center to report the objects.

Lebanon: SLA Soldiers Thwart an Attack by 'Terrorists'

NC1504104596 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1031 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At noon today, the soldiers of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] thwarted a failed attack targeting the Saydun post. The terrorists shelled the area to cover their withdrawal.

Lebanon: Army Issues Communique on Fighting 15 Apr

NC1504105596 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1018 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our correspondent in the south reported that heavy Israeli artillery bombardment is targeting the town of (al-Mustaqbal Tul) in al-Nabatiyah province, causing several casualties among civilians.

This morning's bombardment of al-Nabatiyah and neighboring villages has eased up. [passage omitted]

Israeli planes fired an air-to-ground missile on the center of Tyre. It fell near Roman historic ruins, but there were no reports of casualties.

Israeli planes also raided the al-Raml area, near the shiite Orphanage Center. [passage omitted]

Israeli planes are at this moment flying over Beirut and the southern Suburb. In the south, Israeli planes a short time ago raided the Tallat al-Sabbah, north of al-Nabatiyah, while the Israeli artillery is bombarding Kafr Sir, Shukin, 'Atshit, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, and Kafr Tibnit.

On the other hand, the Guidance Department of the Lebanese Army has issued the following communique:

The Israeli air and land attacks, from this morning till noon, concentrated on the western and central sectors in the south. Warplanes are flying over the capital, Beirut, and areas of Kasrawan, al-Shuf, and al-Biqa', drawing antiaircraft fire from the Lebanese Army.

The warplanes raided the town of Tyre for the first time since the start of military operations. The raid focused on the public gardens in the town.

While gunboats continued to impede the entry of ships into ports, a warship was seen six miles off the Sidon coast. The warship, carrying three military helicopters, was seen heading north.

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The occupation forces also escalated their threats to citizens in al-Nabatiyah and Tyre provinces to leave their villages and houses for Sidon and Beirut.

As to the areas that came under artillery bombardment, they included al-Nabatiya, Kafr Tibnit, Habbush, Jisr Habbush, Shukin, Kafr Rumman, Kafr Jawz, 'Arab Salim, Humin al-Fawqa, Tibnin, 'Ayn Qana, and Marj al-Zuhur. Israeli warplanes raided Kafra, Yatar, Zibqin, Wadi Jilu, al-Qulaylah, Hannawiyah, al-Sawwanah, Majdal Zun, Majdal Silm, al-Mansurah, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Mlita, Humin al-Fawqa, and Tallat al-Sabbah, south of al-Nabatiyah. An army post on the Habbush junction was hit by the raid, but no casualties are reported.

Lebanon: Al-Hariri—Government Cannot Stop Hizballah From Fighting

NC1504105696 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Report by correspondent Andre 'Aziz Muhawish on "some of the details" of the news conference by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Paris on 15 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri described his talks with French President Jacques Chirac as positive. He said he explained to him the current situation in Lebanon. Al-Hariri affirmed that the only step required to be taken immediately is to stop the fighting now, then to apply the cease-fire agreement of 1993 at a second stage. A later stage will be to implement Resolution 425 and reach a peace agreement with Israel for the long term.

In a news conference he held in Paris today, al-Hariri explained that French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, who left for Israel today, will be working on establishing an immediate cease-fire. He said France is not working along a policy that goes against the U.S. policy. He added that there are consultations between the two sides regarding the current events. Al-Hariri added that what Lebanon expects from France is what one friendly country would do for another; in other words, to stop the war immediately and start dialogue to resolve the problems.

Al-Hariri declared that the Lebanese state cannot disarm the resistance so long as Israel is occupying the south. He denied that the Lebanese state was embracing [tatabanna] the Hizballah operations.

In this regard, he said:

[Begin al-Hariri recording] No, we did not embrace [tabannatha] [word indistinct]. No, no, no. Let me tell you something. There is a difference between the Lebanese state telling Hizballah to go and fight and the Lebanese state preventing Hizballah from fighting. There is a huge difference. What we are saying is that we cannot prevent Hizballah from fighting because there is an occupation. They [the Israelis] are saying that we must prevent Hizballah from fighting. We cannot prevent Hizballah from fighting. It would then seem as though we are making things easy and simple for the occupation of our land. [end recording]

Prime Minister al-Hariri then left France for Morocco to continue his tour.

Lebanon: Christopher Telephones al-Hariri on Situation

NC1504110996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri received, during his visit to Paris, a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and the means of ending it.

Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Raid Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Other Villages

NC1504112196 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1059 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just been informed that at 1350 today the hostile warplanes raided the town of Shaqra. The raids before that targeted the town of Majdal Silm. Also, three successive raids took place at 1330 on the area on Saydun near Kafr Milki. We were also informed that the hostile warplanes continue flying over the capital, Beirut, and firing thermal balloons. The warplanes are being confronted by anti-aircraft fire from the ground.

Lebanon: Beirut Radio Updates Security Situation 15 Apr

NC1504114696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1102 GMT 15 Apr 19 96

[Report by correspondent Muhammad Ruba'i in the central sector; live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Zionist military operations have continued for the fifth consecutive day against the southern towns and villages. It is a war of genocide launched by the enemy on all axes in the south as part of a terrorist scheme to disperse, kill, and displace the inhabitants of all the southern villages on the pretext of the settlements' safety. The [Islamic] Resistance is retaliating by rocketing the Israeli settlements. Around 50 katyusha rockets have been fired since dawn

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to this hour. The last was the firing of six rockets at 1300 today.

The latest military operations were two raids at 1145 on the Majdal Silm outskirts. At 1245, warplanes raided the area of Kafra, targeting the government school and the town's stadium.

At 1300, the planes raided the area south of Tyre, targeting the al-'Attar area and the Imam al-Sadr Institute, which is adjacent to the International Red Cross Committee's premises.

After 1400 today, the villages of Qana, Siddiqin, al-Bazuriyah, Hannawiyah, al-Shu'atiyah, Zibqin, Jibal al-Butm, Haris, Kafra, the 'Ali al-Mizrab area, and Shaqra came under artillery bombardment.

At 1320, helicopters raided the hills of al-Sultaniyah.

Warplanes are at this moment raiding Wadi al-Suluqi and Wadi al-Qaysiyah in the Qabrikha area. [passage omitted]

I just learned from the Fijian contingent's post in Qana from where I am talking that a raid is now targeting 'Ayn [word indistinct]-al-Sultaniyah area in the central sector. Many warplanes and helicopters are flying over the area. The artillery bombardment of the al-Qulaylah and the outskirts of al-Mansurah remains very intensive.

Lebanon: Minister Buwayz Advocates Negotiated Solution With Israel

AU1504120196 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 15 Apr 96 p 146

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "The Enemy Wants Our Country"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Jerusalem's combat aircraft have again bombarded Beirut after 14 years. Is Lebanon facing a new Israeli invasion?

[Buwayz] We have information that Israel is planning to expand the occupied zone in southern Lebanon by approximately 10 km to the north. The enemy wants our country.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will you tolerate that?

[Buwayz] The current attacks serve domestic purposes: Elections will be held in Israel at the end of May, and Shim'on Peres not only wants to be recognized as a diplomat, but he wants to show his critics, that — just like his predecessor — he can take drastic measures with an iron hand. However, when flexing his muscles, Peres should not forget the following: Rabin forced over a quarter of a million people to leave their homes and drove them like cattle toward Beirut — and still could not get rid of the Hizballah.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why don't you disarm the terrorists, who also receive financial aid from Iran, as happened with the militia in Lebanon?

[Buwayz] Violating international law, Israel occupied a large territory in southern Lebanon. No government in the world would disarm a resistance movement against occupiers of its own country. There is a simple solution to the problem: Israel should finally disappear from Lebanon, so that our army can move there and assume its national duties in this part of our national territory, too. Thus, Hizballah would lose its legitimacy, and an armed resistance movement would no longer be needed.

[DER SPIEGEL] Israel has suggested a trial period of six months during which your army should prove that it is capable of guaranteeing security along Israel's northern border. [Buwayz] This is not correct. The only thing that Peres offered was the empty phrase "transfer of troops." We, however, offer a detailed plan for positioning the Lebanese army in the south. Israel should present its withdrawal plan in return. Yet the Israelis want a peace agreement first — they insist on dictating the conditions for peace.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is there no longer any room for negotiations after the terrorism that occurred?

[Buwayz] We are ready to sit down with the Israeli government and draft a precise withdrawal plan and timetable. Israel must finally realize that it can no longer think and act exclusively in military terms, that the problems between Israel and Lebanon can only be solved through negotiations.

Lebanon: Communique Warns Residents of Villages To Leave by 1330 GMT

NC1504120796 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1132 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Communique No. 4 "for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the new security plan and after Hizballah fired rockets across the northern borders of Israel, the Israeli Army announces the following:

The residents of the towns and villages that we will name in this communique should leave their villages between the time they hear this communique and 1630 [1330 GMT] local time. Everyone who remains in his home after this time will expose himself to the danger of death at his own risk. He who warns is excused. Following are the names of the villages and

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towns that should be evacuated in accordance with this communique.

Kanisah, Hannawiyah, Ramadiyah, Qana, 'Aytit, Jwayya, Tayr Zibna, Bafliyah, Dirdghayya, 'Abba, Jibshit, Dayr al-Zahrani, Brayqi', Yuhmur al-Baqa', 'Ayn al-Tinah, Suhmur.

Lebanon: Al-Hariri Speaks to Journalists in Paris

NC1504144496 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1052 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri held a news conference at his house in Paris this morning. He stressed that if Israel continues its aggressions against Lebanon, it will be putting an end to the peace process. Al-Hariri accused Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres of disavowing peace. This is part of what al-Hariri said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Hariri] We are asking the world to work toward a cease fire and to stop this massive Israeli operation against the peaceful Lebanese people, and against civilians in particular. This operation is continuing. As you know, some 400,000 Lebanese were forced to leave their villages and cities in the south and move to Beirut. So, this is what we are asking for.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. prime minister, what did you ask President Chirac to do, and what are you going to ask King Hassan II of Morocco and Saudi King Fahd when you visit their countries?

[Al-Hariri] We are trying to ask all our friends to use their good relations to work for a cease-fire, for Israel's withdrawal, and for implementation of the July [1993] agreement.

[Correspondent] How do you evaluate the current situation in Lebanon? What do you think Israel is trying to achieve through this aggression?

[Al-Hariri] Israel claims that it is attacking Hizballah. But the fact is that it is destroying the country.

[Correspondent] How far can Lebanon stand fast?

[Al-Hariri] The Lebanese lived through 20 years of war. They are tough people. By saying this I am not challenging anyone, but we do not know what we are required to do. They want us to choose between them attacking us or us attacking each other. That is, they are giving us one of two choices: Israel attacking us or we, the Lebanese, fighting each others; either we receive artillery and rocket shelling from Israel or we and Hizballah fight each other.

[Correspondent] Has President Chirac informed you of the results of his contacts with President Clinton and the Israeli prime minister, and have you sensed any progress?

[Al-Hariri] We are informed about all this. We hope that we will reach a solution, because the current situation is in the interest of neither side.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] I expect all sides to return to the agreements and try to implement them more strictly, and that the war, which will lead us nowhere, will stop.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] or a new agreement?

[Al-Hariri] No, no; there is no such thing as a new agreement; there is no time for anyone to arrange a new agreement. We are talking about the July agreement. But we are talking about a serious implementation of this agreement.

[Correspondent] Mr. prime minister, do you have an estimation of the losses so far?

[Al-Hariri] According to the latest information, some 400,000 Lebanese left their houses. Hundreds of houses were destroyed. The electricity substation was attacked. There are fatalities; I do not have a figure, but perhaps about 100 people were killed and 300 others wounded. But, Israel is obviously seeking to pressure the Lebanese state by displacing the people and damaging the country's construction plan. This is clear; and they are saying it.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, in light of your contacts, how do you evaluate French-U.S. coordination?

[Al-Hariri] The two countries are not working against each other; they are talking to each other.

[Correspondent] Mr. prime minister, are there any U.S. or Western guarantees that [?the Israelis] will not repeat what they did in 1982?

[Al-Hariri] The operation is still going on. The fighting is still continuing.

[Correspondent] Mr. prime minister, so far, the Lebanese Army has not entered the battle. Do you fear that such intervention may lead to a confrontation...

[Al-Hariri, interrupting] Look, the Lebanese Army and the Syrian Army are returning the fire that is directed at them. We have repeatedly said that we are not able to enter into war with Israel. Israel is stronger than us, but when they fire at the Lebanese Army, the Army returns the fire using the weapons it has. Israel, very clearly, has a formidable war machine that the Lebanese Army cannot confront.

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[Correspondent] What concessions can the Lebanese state make?

[Al-Hariri] We have nothing to give. Our territory is already occupied, and they themselves are saying that they are fighting Hizballah, not us.

[Correspondent] But the state embraced Hizballah's operations.

[Al-Hariri] No, no, it did not embrace [ma tabannat] Hizballah. Look, there is a big difference between the Lebanese state telling Hizballah to go fight and the Lebanese state preventing Hizballah from fighting. We say that we cannot prevent Hizballah from fighting because there is occupation. They, on the other hand, say that you, the Lebanese state, must prevent Hizballah [attacks]. We will not prevent Hizballah, because if we do this, we will be creating a comfortable situation for the occupation. No one can do this. It is not us who created Hizballah; Hizballah was created because of the occupation. Israel is saying: You must disarm Hizballah. I said in Cairo yesterday, and I always say, that if Hizballah is a problem and Israel is trying to solve it, it is using the wrong method. It is actually making the problem worse and increasing the no-peace chances in the region. So, the entire Israeli logic of using force is wrong.

[Correspondent] Mr. prime minister, [words indistinct] Israeli withdrawal [words indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] As you know, the Israelis are not occupying new areas. They are attacking from the areas they are already in, and from the sea and air.

[Correspondent] What did President Husni Mubarak promise you to do?

[Al-Hariri] He promised to make moves, and he did move. [end recording]

Lebanon: Buwayz on Contacts With U.S, July 1993 Understanding

NC1404185796 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1705 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by an unidentified correspondent in Beirut—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Good evening, Mr. Minister.

[Buwayz] Good evening.

[Correspondent] Everybody listened to the news conference you held at the end of your long day of meetings with Arab, European, and other ambassadors. Has there been anything new since that news conference?

[Buwayz] Of course. There are continuing consultations with a number of friendly countries. There are intensive efforts [words indistinct] to find a solution and a cease-fire based on the July [1993] understanding.

[Correspondent] Mr. minister, as it is now known, the U.S. position is crucial to these efforts. Did you sense from Ambassador Richard Jones today that there is a different position from that announced by Christopher yesterday?

[Buwayz] There are ongoing contacts with the United States. I received a message from Secretary Christopher today. There are continuing talks through the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and our embassy in Washington. The United States is trying to calm the situation and is seeking a kind of understanding which, based on the July understanding, can secure an end to the firing of rockets at Israel. We, as a Lebanese state, are not in favor of firing rockets at northern Israel; we have never been in favor of that option. But by violating the July understanding and constantly attacking civilian targets, even if by mistake as it sometimes claims, Israel has justified such reactions.

[Correspondent] Mr. minister, are the contacts with Iran being held directly or through Damascus?

[Buwayz] Before going into these details, I believe it is necessary that we put things in their proper perspective: What is taking place in Lebanon now can never be understood in isolation from the Sharm al-Shaykh summit and the Israeli elections. It is very clear that Peres is in a weak position as far as the elections are concerned. He is trying to score a victory through [word indistinct] portraying himself as being capable politically and militarily; he is trying to show that he can defend Israel's security and stability. We cannot isolate this from the resolutions of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit or from the presence of Israeli aircraft on Turkish territory. There are stormy climates in the region as the date of the Israeli elections approaches. The political leadership in Israel is embarrassed before the military leadership. Again, Israel is trying to make Lebanon pay the price.

[Correspondent] Mr. minister, in this important, hot regional climate, do you think that Israel, which today asked the Lebanese Government to provide new conditions for a new understanding, will accept a return to the July understanding according to the old rules?

[Buwayz] The July understanding says Israel should refrain from attacking civilian targets in return for the resistance refraining from firing rockets on northern Israel. Israel's violation of its obligations under this understanding means violation of the whole agreement.

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We cannot judge one party and ignore the other. This agreement in itself can ensure a halt to the firing of rockets on northern Israel insomuch as Israel commits itself to this agreement by refraining from attacking civilian targets.

[Correspondent] Thank you Mr. minister.

[Buwayz] You are welcome.

Lebanon: Residents Warned To Leave Homes by 1430 GMT

NC1504130396 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1238 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Communique No. 5 "for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the new security plan and after Hizballah fired rockets across the northern borders of Israel, the Israeli army announces the following:

The residents of the villages and towns that we will name in this communique should leave them between the time they hear this communique and 1730 [1430 GMT]. Everyone remaining in his home after this time will expose himself to the danger of death at his own risk. He who forewarns is excused.

Following are the names of the villages and towns that should be evacuated in accordance with this communique: al-'Abbasiyah, Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, Ma'rakah, Ma'rub, Barish, Tayr Falsayh, [Sharifah], Shuhur, al-Duwayr, al-Kufur, Haruf, Kafr Milki, Habbush, Sarba, Ziftah, Sir al-Gharbiyah, and al-Numayriyah. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Hizballah Official Stresses 'Cohesion' With Government

MM1504123696 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Apr 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ibrahim 'Awad: "Hizballah Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Our Contacts With Government Continuing; Israel Will Reap Nothing But Whirlwind"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut — Deputy Muhammad Ra'd, head of the Hizballah Political Council, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "the cohesion in the Lebanese official, people's, and national position is the real response to Israel's demand that the Lebanese Government check the resistance, in particular Hizballah."

Ra'd said that "this cohesion is now so strong that the enemy with all his military machine and savage aggression cannot find a gap through which to infiltrate." Ra'd stressed that Hizballah's contacts with the authorities are continuing. He pointed out that "what Israel has done over recent days has pushed it into a big dilemma from which it will emerge with nothing but disappointment and defeat."

In the first comment by Hizballah on what Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said in his news conference last Thursday [11 April] and his interview with CNN, namely that a confrontation with the resistance or Hizballah is out of the question, Ra'd said that "Prime Minister al-Hariri wanted to tell world public opinion that the problem has to do not with the Katyusha rockets and the resistance but, rather, the continued Israeli occupation of Lebanese territories, the bombardment of Lebanese citizens, and the murder of children and old people."

Ra'd said that "the national constants to which the Lebanese Government is adhering, the confrontation staged by the resistance in the field, and the people's steadfastness and adoption of the policy of fighting the occupation will direct the enemy's claws to his own neck, and he will reap nothing from the wind he has sown except the whirlwind."

Lebanon: Radio on Israeli Air Raids, Katyusha Rockets

NC1504130496 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1253 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the news desk: Israeli warplanes raided Majdal Silm and Shaqra a short while ago. Before the air raid, the Israeli forces directed a concentrated and destructive bombardment to Majdal Silm, Shaqra, Tulin, Bra'shit, Tibnim, Qabrikha, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and Haris.

At 1515, the Islamic Resistance fired a new salvo of katyushas at northern Israel.

Lebanon: Israeli Air Raids, Shelling, Flights Over Beirut Reported

NC1504132296 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1257 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] After a 30-minute break, Israeli artillery shelling now focuses on the townships of Jibshit, al-Qa'qa'iyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Yuhmur, and the Litani river basin. The shelling is accompanied by Israeli flights over the region. Just after 1530 [1230 GMT], Israeli warplanes raided Majdal Silm and Shaqra. The raid was preceded by concentrated and destructive shelling against Majdal Silm, Shaqra, Tulin, Bra'shit, Tibnin, Qabrikha, 'Ayta al-Jabl, and Haris.

[In a related report, Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 1300 GMT adds: "Enemy warplanes continue to fly

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over Beirut and the suburbs, drawing antiaircraft fire. Israeli warships have also been spotted near Beirut coasts and fire was directed at them. About 10 minutes ago, there was an Israeli raid against Shaqra and Wadi al-Suwwanah."]

Lebanon: UNIFIL Convoy Trapped; Buwayz Announces French Initiative

NC1504132796 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1308 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the news desk: The Israeli warplanes raided al-Mansurah a few minutes ago. Elsewhere, a convoy of UN Intermin Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] members and several newsmen are currently trapped in the Israeli bombardment between al-Mansurah and Majdal Zun. The convoy and the newsmen were heading for Majdal Zun to rescue a number of residents when they got trapped.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz declared that the French foreign minister is carrying with him a French initiative during his visit to the area. The initiative contains a declaration for a cease-fire based on or similar to the July agreement.

Lebanon: SLA Positions Hit by Rockets; No Casualties Reported

NC1504134996 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1336 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent has reported that five katyusha rockets landed in the al-Tayyibah area this afternoon, injuring a 13-month old boy. He was transferred to the hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, two South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions in Jazzin came under rocket attack at noon today. No casualties were reported. The SLA troops returned the fire.

Lebanon: Source Denies al-Hirawi Left for Damascus; Raids Continue

NC1504135596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1334 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent: Sources of the Presidential Office have denied that President Ilyas al-Hirawi left for Damascus this afternoon. Media sources earlier reported that President al-Hirawi left Beirut for Damascus.

Israeli military aircraft are now raiding the village of Bayadir Haruf in al-Nabatiyah area and the village of Mahrunah. Kafra is coming under missile barrage.

Lebanon: Arab League Meeting on Israeli Attacks Requested

NC1304170296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Lebanon has officially requested an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council on the foreign ministers level to discuss the large-scale Israeli aggression against Lebanese territory. In a statement to MENA, Hisham Dimashqiyah, Lebanese ambassador to Egypt and permanent envoy to the Arab League, said that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has telephoned Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. He is also holding similar contacts with a number of Arab foreign ministers to discuss holding an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council as soon as possible. Dimashqiyah said that the Arab League General Secretariat has circulated Lebanon's request to the Arab envoys to the Arab League.

Lebanon: Hizballah Official—Israel Must Return to 1993 Agreement

NC1504141096 Paris AFP in English 1336 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Beirut, April 15 (AFP) — The Iranian-backed Hizballah said Monday [15 April] that it would stop firing rockets into northern Israel if the Jewish state halted its five-day offensive in Lebanon and respected a 1993 agreement.

"We only see one solution: Israel must give up its contradictory demands," including the disarmament of Hizballah, "and agree to come back to the arrangements of July 1993," the official, who requested anonymity, told AFP. [passage omitted on background to conflict]

The Hizballah official also said that the Lebanese and Syrian governments shared the view that Israel must return to the 1993 agreement.

"We are coordinating our action with our allies, including Syria," he said.

The Hizballah official warned, however, that if Israel did not return to the 1993 agreement, his group would match any escalation of attacks.

"Hizballah will respond to any intensification of attacks by a similar escalation, and it proved it by its intensive bombing on Sunday" in northern Israel, he said.

Hizballah spearheads the armed struggle to drive Israel from its self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon.

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Lebanon: Southern Suburb of Beirut Shelled by Israeli Warships

NC1504141896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1407 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This is just in from the news desk: Citizens called us a short while ago to report that Beirut's Southern Suburb, especially Bi'r al-'Abd, al-Murayjah, and al-Liylakah, are now coming under intensive shelling, perhaps from the Israeli enemy warships in the sea.

Lebanon: 'Sources' Comment on Possible Evacuation of More Towns, Villages

NC1504142296 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1404 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Security sources have stated that in light of the continued firing of katyushas at northern Israel, it is likely that the Israeli army might adopt new steps to expand the areas of its operations against the Hizballah terrorists.

The sources added that as part of its action program, the Israeli army is studying the possibility of asking residents to vacate new towns and villages between the al-Zahrani and al-Awwali regions so that it will be able to strike at the Hizballah terrorists and cripple their infrastructure. This step is aimed at saving the civilians who are being used by Hizballah as shields in its terrorist operations.

Lebanon: Israeli Aircraft Raid Beirut, Tyre Areas

NC1504142596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1412 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the editors desk: Hostile aircraft are at this moment raiding residential areas in Hayy al-Sullam and Bi'r al-'Abd [in Beirut]. Hostile aircraft carried out a raid on the al-Shawakir area in Tyre and earlier raided the public gardens in Tyre. Israeli aircraft also raided the villages of Jibshit and Brayqi'.

Lebanon: Hizballah Says 10 Salvos of Katyushas Fired

NC1504144196 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In its most recent communique, Hizballah said that 10 salvos of katyushas have been fired at northern israel. Hizballah noted that its groups fired 10 salvos of rockets at the Israeli settlements at 1630 [1330 GMT].

Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Raid Bsalim Electricity Company

NC1504150096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1442 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the news desk: Israeli warplanes raided the Bsalim Electricity Company in Jall al-Dib at 1730 [1430 GMT].

Lebanon: Air Raids on Beirut Suburb Leaves 4 Injured

NC1504152996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1513 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Security sources have denied that 'Ayn al-Muraysah [in West Beirut] was subjected to an air raid. However, the enemy air raids on the Southern Suburb have left four people wounded.

Lebanon: Israeli Aircraft Overflying Beirut, Explosions Heard

NC1504153296 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1503 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli military aircraft are at now flying over Beirut and are drawing antiaircraft fire. Sounds of antiaircraft gunfire and explosions are being heard around Beirut.

Most of Beirut is in the dark after the power plants in Bsalim and al-Jumur have been struck.

Lebanon: 'Resistance' Fires Katyusha Rockets at Galilee

NC1504153496 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the editors desk: The resistance men have fired a new round of Katyusha rockets at the Galilee panhandle at 1810, wounding three settlers.

Lebanon: Buwayz on French Initiative, U.S. Position

NC1504153096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1408 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At a news conference this afternoon, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz reviewed the Lebanese complaint that has been lodged with the UN Security Council regarding the Israeli oppressive acts of aggression against south Lebanon and western al-Biqa'. He stated that there has been a French initiative aimed at declaring a cease-fire on the basis of the July understanding or on similar grounds. Buwayz sa

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[Begin recording] [Buwayz] The French Government has been working on an initiative for approximately three days. The initiative began with contacts between French Foreign Minister De Charette and me. The initiative was discussed by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and French President Chirac during the former's visit to Paris. The initiative has resulted in De Charette's visit to the Middle East.

This initiative seeks a cease-fire based on the July Agreement or on similar grounds. In other words, the initiative stems from the July Agreement. Dispatching French forces is currently not under discussion. The French offer to dispatch French forces, which was made before the recent incidents and Israeli acts of aggression, was linked with the peace process. The offer was made on the basis that if understanding on steps toward peace is reached between Lebanon and Israel and if an agreement is reached on a specific mechanism, France will be ready to send forces to implement this mechanism. This would be a peace-keeping force and would be deployed on the borders to guarantee implementation of any agreement. Thus, there is a big difference between this initiative and the endeavors De Charette is currently making.

[Unidentified correspondent] The Israeli ambassador in Washington said a short while ago that it is premature to discuss a cease-fire. He is thus foiling the French initiative before it is launched?

[Buwayz] I believe that Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich said more than that. I believe he said that any non U.S. initiative will be rejected. Thus, I believe that when the Israelis reject any non U.S. initiative, they reject its substance.

[Correspondent] How can we deal with them? How [words indistinct] the existing situation?

[Buwayz] We have proposed an immediate cease-fire based on a return to the July Agreement. We proposed this to the countries that expressed a willingness to mediate and to most of the countries that are interested in these developments in Lebanon. I repeat: Despite the unfavorable media climate in the world and Israel's superiority in this regard, I emphasize that the violation of this agreement came basically from Israel. It was Israel that torpedoed this agreement. The July Agreement says no katyushas should be fired [at Israel] in return for Israel not attacking civilians. This agreement, in other words, confined resistance and Israeli Army operations to the occupied Lebanese territory. This was the agreement. Now, Israel wants an end to the katyushas in all cases; that is, it wants its army to be free to attack whomever it wants and to carry out disciplinary operations in all cases without [Hizballah] having the right to respond at the same level. It wants this response to be confined to the occupied Lebanese territory even if the ugliest practices against the Lebanese people are perpetrated. This logic is unacceptable. We call for returning to the agreement in a way that satisfies the needs of all sides. Violence and operations must remains confined; they should not go beyond certain boundaries that threaten the Middle East peace process.

[Correspondent] Is there anything new regarding the UN Security Council meeting?

[Buwayz] So far, the United States has accepted the idea of the meeting. But according to information reaching us from New York and a number of capitals, the United States continues to insist on the meeting lasting for the shortest possible time, on the deliberations not taking long. That is, the United States is trying to prevent a number of countries from intervening and expressing their views. The United States is also suggesting that the meeting should issue only some sort of statement, not a resolution — something like saying the Security Council was informed of the situation and is calling for calm. So it appears the United States is opposing the issuing of any resolution, any resolution condemning Israel, or any practical step the Security Council may take.

[Correspondent] Given this situation, how is Lebanon going to act diplomatically?

[Buwayz] We are holding intensive contacts with all friendly countries, especially the European countries. We are urging them to play an effective role so that the world may show some objectivity and some fairness in the way it views this situation. [end recording]

Lebanon: 8 People Wounded in Beirut Air Raid

NC1504155096 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1526 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the editors desk: According to medical sources, at least eight people were wounded today as a result of the Israeli air raid on Beirut's southern suburb. Missiles landed in al-Murayjah area in front of a Lebanese police post and on Bi'r al-'Abd in Beirut where Hizballah centers are located, and on Hayy al-Sullam east of Beirut Airport. This is the first Israeli air raid on Beirut's southern suburb today after flying over Beirut for two hours, drawing Lebanese army antiaircraft fire.

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Lebanon: Hizballah Council Office, Fadlallah House Hit

NC1504155796 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the news desk: Security sources have told our radio that the sound of explosions is being heard in the Normandy area [in West Beirut]. We have been told by the security departments that they are trying to clarify the cause of the explosions. We were also told that the office of Hizballah's Consultative Council in the Southern Suburb has been hit. This is the fourth time that this office has been hit by Israeli helicopters.

Meanwhile, a house near the Burj al-Barajinah police post was bombarded. In Harat Hurayk [in Beirut's Southern Suburb], the periphery of the house of 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah was subjected to artillery bombardment.

Lebanon: Further on Call for Southern Residents To Leave Homes

NC1504160096 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1535 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Communique No. 6 "for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the new security plan and after Hizballah fired rockets across the northern border of Israel, the Israeli army announces the following:

Residents of villages and towns that we will name in this communique must leave them between the time they hear this communique and 1930 [1630 GMT]. Everyone who remains after this time, will expose himself to the danger of death at his own risk. He who forewarns is excused.

The following villages and towns are covered by this communique: Knisah, Hannawayh, al-Ramadiyah, Qana, 'Aytit, Jwayya, Tayr Zibnah, Baflayh, Dirdghayya, 'Ibba, Jibshit, Dayr al-Zahrani, Burayqi', Yuhmur al-Biqa', 'Ayn al-Tinah, and Suhmur.

Lebanon: Israeli Spokesman on Bombing Beirut Targets

NC1504160796 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1546 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Communique No. 9]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli military spokesman has stated that the Israeli air force has bombed the Bsalim power plant and another Hizballah center in Beirut this afternoon. This bombardment comes as part of the concepts of the new game and after Hizballah fired rockets at north Israel as part of the war raging against it. If there is no peace in Qiryat Shemona there will be no peace either in Bi'r al-'Abd or in Harat Hurayk. If there is dark in Qiryat Shemona there will also be dark in Beirut.

Lebanon: Army Command Issues Communique on Events

NC1504170696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1636 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Communique issued by the Guidance Directorate of the Lebanese Army Command on 15 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli attacks this afternoon were directed against the residential areas of Beirut's Southern Suburb and certain vital installations in the country. The Israeli warplanes raided the power station in Bsalim, causing serious damage. Elsewhere, enemy helicopters strafed areas in Hayy al-Sullam, al-Murayjah, and the periphery of the army's Henry Shihab Barracks in Bi'r Hasan. Seven civilians were injured and some cars were damaged.

In the south, the Israeli aircraft raided the townships of al-Shawakir, al-'Izziyah, Zibqin, al-Mansurah, Majdal Silm, al-Mu'alliyah, Shaqra, Khirbat Silm, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Humin al-Fawqa, Jibshit, and Haruf. Al-Nabatiyah, Tyre, Jba', Kafr Milki, Tibnin, Mayfadun, Kafr Dajjal, and the 'Ayn al-Tinah hills were subjected to Israeli artillery bombardment.

The army commander urged citizens to avoid strange objects found in the targeted areas. Citizens are urged to inform the nearest police post about such objects. The command called on the media to be accurate in covering the events and to have the reports verified by the competent departments in the army command before broadcasting them in order to avoid confusing the citizens with false or contradictory reports.

Lebanon: Iranian Official To Visit Damascus, Beirut 16 Apr

NC1504170896 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1632 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iranian Embassy in Beirut today announced that the adviser to the Iranian foreign minister and director general of the Middle East desk, will arrive in Damascus tomorrow to discuss the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanon. He will later leave for Beirut.

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Lebanon: Radio Denounces World Silence on Israeli 'Crimes'

NC1304140896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1340 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Unscheduled "talk"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners, as the innocent children, women, and elderly suffer the injustice of the occupier and continuously receive its gunfire, they look to the capitals of decisionmaking and to the United Nations, hoping everybody will open their eyes to the fact of what is happening and work to put an end to crimes perpetrated by an aggressive authority against peaceful people. Why is there a suspicious silence and deaf ears to the righteous outcries?

Dear listeners, the aggressor has no excuse. It is the occupier, usurper, and oppressor. Its withdrawal from our pure land is the solution. It is engaged in shelling and destruction only to satisfy its aggressive tendencies and whims for shedding the blood of the innocent ones. It does not spare children, women, old men, or even fruit trees.

Lebanon: Israeli Actions Based on 'Defective Logic'

MM1504132796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Apr 96 p 9

[Editorial: "Israel Is Not Learning; Israel Is Wasting a Peace Opportunity Which Might Not Be Repeated by Pursuing a Policy Which Confirms That It Has Not Learned From Past Experiences"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The method used by Israel will not lead to peace. A show of force has nothing to do with the question. Peace cannot be achieved by military force. It can only be achieved by eliminating the causes of the confrontation.

In Lebanon, for example, how can Israel, which is occupying a strip of southern Lebanon, tell the Lebanese Government to hit Hizballah or the other national forces fighting the occupation?

The Israeli occupation is an illegal and provocative action which pays no attention even to UN resolutions. What is more, it defies the simplest rules of logic and demands that the Lebanese Government hit Lebanese citizens who are fighting the occupation. Israel thinks that its falsification of the facts will fool world public opinion and cause it to accept a defective logic urging the Lebanese to defend the Israeli occupation of their land. The Israelis are not striking southern Lebanon only, but the heart of Beirut and the Lebanese state in general, and regrettably they are not deterred by the major states or the United Nations.

At any rate, Israel's blatant aggression in Lebanon and its tightening of the siege around the Palestinian territories will not achieve peace or stability. The Israelis do not learn easily. Major states have in the past failed to achieve victory over weaker peoples defending their land and dignity. The United States failed in Vietnam, France failed in Algeria, and the former Soviet Union failed in Afghanistan. It is impossible to achieve victory over movements fighting invasion and occupation. Such a victory has never been achieved in contemporary history anywhere in the world.

Besides, the occupation delusions that go back to the beginning of time no longer have a place among us in this age. In fact, all that was built on deception or imposed by force is now collapsing and breaking up. We can see this happening in more than one location: in the former Yugoslavia, the former Soviet Union. And we can see the early signs of the breakup of structures that were built without the peoples' will in other locations in Europe.

The battles will revolve in a vicious circle which Israel has chosen without any reflection. Those raids and shells will not cause the Lebanese resistance to halt its resistance to the Israeli occupation. In fact, the Israeli aggression could cause new forces to join the resistance.

Furthermore, the attempt to terrorize the Palestinians and to suppress them through excessive violence, demolition of houses, siege, and starvation harms peace and the interests of Israel itself. All these are points lost by Israel and will not help it to achieve peace or stability. Because the world will not remain silent for long about its aggression against the simplest of principles. Israel's battle with the Palestinians, Lebanese, and Syrians is settled beforehand, as history teaches us. And Israel will open against itself doors that it should not come near. It should look for solutions that eliminate current tensions, recognize others' rights, and abandon its futile arrogance.

The Arabs offered Israel an opportunity which might not be repeated, by accepting peace. But most regrettably, the Israelis — for a cheap reward, namely the victory of this or that Israeli party in the elections — are wasting this opportunity. Israel's announcing its willingness to comply with Resolution 425 and to leave southern Lebanon would contribute to calming conditions and putting the peace process on the right road. So will Israel do that?

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Lebanon: Al-Hariri Discusses Mideast Peace Process

BR1104121196 Paris LE POINT in French 6 Apr 96 p 63

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri," signed "M.D."; place and date not given: "We Treat Christians Just Like Any Others"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [LE POINT] Christians feel excluded from Lebanon. What do you intend to do to reassure them?

[Al-Hariri] We treat the Christians just like any others. In the last elections there were abstentions in each community. Our aim is to produce an electoral law which gives a sense of security to all Lebanese people.

[LE POINT] You appear to be having difficulty in bringing money back into the country from the Christian Diaspora.

[Al-Hariri] The money is coming back. Solidere, the company which is rebuilding Beirut, comprises 95 percent of Lebanese capital. A company with a capital of $100 million has just been set up in the north of the capital; 90 percent of its capital is Christian.

[LE POINT] What is your timetable for achieving a peace agreement with Israel?

[Al-Hariri] It is not Lebanon or Syria which is managing the discussions with Israel. It is the United States. It is the United States which issues the invitations. We have decided that Damascus and Tel Aviv should settle most of their disputes before Lebanon enters negotiations. Our problem is much less complicated. For Israel, Syria is of strategic importance. We are not. Lebanon is a small country which cannot get in their way.

[LE POINT] Why not negotiate on your own.

[Al-Hariri] This is not in our interest. Imagine Israel and Syria signing an agreement without us. What means will we then have of getting the Israelis to leave our country? We have agreed not to let the Israelis play Syria against Lebanon or vice versa.

[LE POINT] When will you ask the Syrians to withdraw?

[Al-Hariri] The Taif agreement provides for them to leave once peace has been signed. We are not ready to call into question our country's security in order to please a few people. Syria is playing a positive role in helping us to guarantee our security. Even if Israel withdraws and our Army is deployed in the south, without international assistance we will not have the means to hold the rest of Lebanon.

[LE POINT] Will the Syrians leave?

[Al-Hariri] They will not be staying. If they were, do you think that they would be helping us strengthen our Army?

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Syria: Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's al-Hariri, Buwayz

JN1304204896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at al-Rawdah Palace at 1830 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

They discussed the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese territories, the situation resulting from this, and the impact it has on the peace process. The two sides reviewed the stands adopted by various international parties on the Israeli aggression toward Lebanon. The discussion also dealt with the situation and the moves to be taken in the Arab arena. Views were exchanged on the steps each of the two countries will take and their joint steps on the Arab and international level in light of the current developments.

Syria: Military Spokesman on 'Enemy Bombardment' of Beirut Posts

JN1204174396 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1733 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A military spokesman stated the following:

At 1500 today [1200 GMT], 12 April 1996, enemy helicopters bombarded civilian targets and our forces' positions in al-'Awza'i area in Beirut. The air defense units in the area confronted them and forced them to flee. One soldier was martyred and seven others sustained serious wounds as a result of the enemy bombardment.

Syria: Envoy Says Syria Holding Back From Responding to Israel

LD1304140996 Madrid TVE Internacional Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanon has called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to halt the escalation of violence, and Syria considers that the Israeli attacks are a provocation to dynamite the peace process. Despite the fact that its positions in Lebanon have been directly attacked and one Syrian soldier has died, this country has decided for the moment not to resond. Everything depends on how events develop. This has been confirmed by the Syrian ambassador in Spain, who this morning held an informal meeting with other Arab ambassadors.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Montserrat Boix] For the moment, Lebanon and Syria will try to exhaust the political channels and will not respond violently. This was confirmed to Spanish television by these countries' ambassadors, who today met other Arab ambassadors here in a mosque in Madrid.

The Syrian ambassador, who chaired the first meeting of doctors of Syrian origin in Spain, held in Madrid this morning, sought to emphasize that at present the Arabs are the ones who are attempting by all means to save the peace process in the face of Israel's provocation.

[Muhammad Zuhayr al-'Aqqad, Syrian ambassador to Spain, in Arabic with superimposed Spanish translation] It appears that the Israelis are seeking to draw us into a military action or response. They have attacked Syrian positions in Lebanon. At present we are motionless, so to speak, we are holding back with great difficulty from responding. However, no one can predict what will happen.

[Boix] Serious concern about the crisis was apparent among the Arab ambassadors today, and the coincidence was stressed that this latest escalation coincides with the upcoming Israeli elections and the danger that the current head of government, Shim'on Peres, might be seeking votes by taking tougher stances toward the Arab world.

[Lebanese Ambassador to Spain Anthony Arab] There is no comparison between the few Katyushas which fell in Israel and all this violence which has been unleashed by the Middle East's most powerful army. Of course, behind this there is a spectacular side, namely the element of the Israeli elections. [end recording]

Syria: Radio Commentary Calls Attacks on Lebanon 'Blackmail'

JN1304140096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: At a time when Israel has caused the peace process to face a stalemate, a new stage of stepped-up aggression against Lebanon has begun. This stage has serious dimensions, given the fact that Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres gave priority to the elections at the expense of peace and stability in the region.

The peace process — which has until now not made any real progress — is now suffering from acute suffocation as a result of Israel's hard-line positions that reject the foundations of peace, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the land-for-peace principle. The cycle of

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violence has expanded, thanks to Israel's insistence on bypassing the facts of peace and adhering to misleading allegations that give an inaccurate picture of what has been achieved and of all the efforts since the Madrid conference.

Israel has so far pursued the same approach. It thinks that it can dictate its conditions on the Arabs under the umbrella of the peace process, as if the Arabs had accepted the Madrid conference, its international frame of reference, and the resolutions of international legitimacy on which it is based, to surrender to the Israeli conditions for a settlement. Israel is pursuing its Zionist expansionist plan by alleging that it wants peace to control the region and its resources, change its identity and history, and falsify its geographic, economic, and demographic realities.

If the separate agreements achieved so far are part of peace, then how can we characterize Israel's acts of revenge against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories? These acts are part of collective punishment and include murder, arrests, demolition of homes, and siege of cities and villages. How can we characterize this escalation in the blatant aggression against Lebanon's defenseless cities, villages, and camps? It is as if Israel has unleashed its aggressive instincts, justifying this by security obsessions, which obstructed progress in the peace process. These obsessions today reveal the nature of the Israeli position on peace and the Israeli view of the future of the region.

Israel's first peaceful allegation concerns a policy based on false concepts and reversed priorities regarding the relationship between peace and security. The same applies to the relationship between those who signed peace unilaterally and submitted to Israel's policies and logic and the arrangements made for the region under the name of a new Middle East.

It is no longer a secret that partial deals have promoted Israel's kind of peace. Therefore, those who submitted to these deals are viewed as supporters of peace while those who adhere to their land and rights and the principles of a just and comprehensive peace and ask for the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy are against peace and viewed as terrorists or sponsors of terrorism.

This made some Arab parties relinquish inter-Arab relations and pan-Arab action and establish a bridge with Israel to penetrate the Arab homeland and to besiege it by military alliances in a serious attempt to escalate the situation and to search for new pillars of the policy of estrangement and normalization, which is aimed at the entire pan-Arab existence and constitutes the most serious link in the plans of striking at Arab security.

The serious escalation of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon which harbors the threats of explosion in the region is a new link in the policy of pressure and blackmail through which Israel sought to deal separately with Lebanon, to subjugate it to the logic of those who deviated from Arab ranks, who automatically threw themselves in the Israeli camp which is hostile to the Arabs and to the pan-Arab issues. It seems that Israel's arrogance, which is supported by the bias and favoritism of some international forces which should be among the first defenders of the resolutions of international legitimacy, will lead Israel to political and military blindness. It seems that the Israeli officials do not learn from the lessons of the many facts and developments. It seems that the Israeli officials, who want to exploit the Arab bloodbath to serve their election campaign, do not want to calmly and thoroughly examine the results of the near past to learn that aggression will only lead to the exacerbation of the situation and to the absence of real peace and stability.

No matter how difficult or bitter circumstances are, the Arabs can protect their rights and find a way out of the state of estrangement and fragmentation. No one can force Syria or Lebanon to relinquish their rights or any single inch of their land. No pressure can force Syria and Lebanon to do what they do not want to do. What they want is a just and comprehensive peace based on equality [musawah] and equitability [takafu'] in security and stability. The peace process cannot be reactivated by aggression and indiscriminate killing. The continuation of the Israeli aggression will torpedo the entire peace process.

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Acting Prime Minister Holds Talks With French Diplomat

LD1304210196 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzay, the acting prime minister of Afghanistan, met this afternoon with the charge d'affaires of the French embassy in Kabul. BAKHTAR reported to us that during the meeting, Ahmad Shah Ahmadzay spoke about the political situation and developments in the country, and expressed hope that France will open its consulate in Afghanistan and will give more Afghan students the opportunity to study in that country. In response Mr. [word indistinct], the charge d'affaires of the French embassy in Kabul, said: Afghanistan and France have maintained friendly relations during very difficult times and France has provided welfare services to the Afghans. Our plan is that this assistance will increase.

Afghanistan: Khales—Rabbani Does Not Intend To Relinquish Power

LD1404203996 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohammad Yunus Khales, the leader of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], has said that the president of the Kabul administration is ready to step down but not to relinquish power.

In an interview with a Pakistani newspaper in Jalalabad, the leader of Hezb-e Eslami said: So far many delegations sent by Rabbani have come to Jalalabad and gone. However, no positive result [words indistinct] have been achieved from talks with them. The reason for this is that Rabbani is ready to step down, but he is not ready to transfer the authority of his office after stepping down. No one is prepared to take over an office in which one has no authority.

Khales said: During my meetings with Rabbani's envoys, I have insisted that power should be transferred to a competent person who has the ability to discharge this great responsibility, to unite the Afghans, and to put an end to fighting permanently. Full authority and power should be transferred to such a person after he assumes office. Mr. Khales added: I told Sayyaf [an ally of Rabbani] that the problems must be resolved fundamentially.

Afghanistan: Butrus-Ghali Urges International Conference on Afghanistan

LD1304163696 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Security Council has proposed an international conference to find a solution to the Afghan problem.

According to international news agencies, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the UN secretary general, has proposed the convening of an international conference to find a solution to the Afghan problem.

At a session of the Security Council, the UN secretary general, in the course of presenting a report, said that problems in Afghanistan have been further complicated by foreign assistance to the Afghan groups [words indistinct]. The plan for the transfer of power has failed. The restoration of peace in this country is possible through the formation of a broad Afghani council [shura].

He expressed anxiety over military preparations by the Kabul administration and the Taleban group.

Afghanistan: Hezb-e Eslami Forces Seize District in Paktia Province

LD1304161896 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1430 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ahmad Khel district, Paktia Province, has been captured by Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] forces.

Quoting Hezb-e Eslami Radio, BAKHTAR reported that Hezb-e Eslami forces, after fierce fighting that lasted many hours, took the district of Ahmad Khel from Taleban control.

In the course of this fighting, 10 so-called Taleban were killed or injured. A (?large) quantity of heavy and light weapons as well as ammunition were seized by the Hezb-e Eslami forces.

After the seizure of Saghar and Tolak districts in Ghowr Province, and Ahmad Khel in Paktia Province, the Taleban group have lost their combat morale.

Afghanistan: Taleban Attacks Government Convoy in Ghowr Province

LD1404211396 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Taleban's airplanes have destroyed a military convoy of the Kabul administration in

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Ghowr Province. Mohammad Masum Afghani, a Taleban spokesman, told PPI news agency that the day before yesterday Taleban's airplanes destroyed a Kabul government military convoy which was carrying supplies for government troops in Ghowr Province. Afghani said the convoy was on its way to Chaghcharan, the capital of Ghowr. The Kabul administration has not said anything about the incident.

Afghanistan: Government Forces Reportedly Enter Herat Province

BK1404115996 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL April 14 (AFP)—Afghan government troops have crossed into the south-western Taleban-held province of Herat, seizing kilometers (miles) of ground from the militiamen, defence officials said Sunday.

Forces loyal to the Kabul administration marched into eastern part of the strategically crucial province about two days ago in the face of intense resistance from the Islamic warriors who dominate the area, they said.

"We have now moved over the mountains dividing Herat and the neighbouring province of Ghor and have been moving steadily into the province," an official told AFP.

No independent confirmation of any government victory in the isolated area could be immediately obtained here, but foreign organisations based in Herat city confirmed that clashes were taking place in the east of the province.

Unconfirmed reports from government sources in the area said its forces were heading towards Herat city, an ancient royal capital which the government lost to the Taleban last September.

Afghanistan: Government Forces Kill 21 Taleban

LD1404150396 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1430 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of air force bombing and artillery shelling in the south of Kabul, 21 Taleban have been killed. Reports reaching BAKHTAR say nine of the Taleban were killed during air force bombing of the Khayrabad hills and two of the enemy's combat machines [light tanks] were destroyed.

Afghanistan: Government Forces Capture Village in Ghowr Province

LD1404180696 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The village of Dehyak in Ghowr Province has been cleared of the Taleban militia. A responsible source of the Ministry of Defense has reported to BAKHTAR that, in the course of the clearing up operations in Ghowr Province, the village of Dehyak in Takht Dara [place name as heard] was today completely cleared of Benazir Bhutto's Taleban. The operation was conducted under the command of Haji Mohammad Salim Khalili, the governor of Ghowr Province, Haji Golkhan, the deputy governor of Ghowr Province, and (?Abdol Karim), a commander of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]. As a result of the operation two motor vehicles, one ZK1 machine gun, one rocket, one 75mm artillery piece, one BM1 rocket launcher, and some ammunition have been captured by the Mojahedin of the Islamic army. The clearing up operation against the Taleban in Takht Dara is continuing.

Last night and today the Taleban martyred three Kabul residents and injured 18 others by firing rockets. BAKHTAR has reported that the rockets landed in Chelsotun [place name as heard], Alauddin, Dasht-e Barchi [place name as heard], and Company [former U.S. company area on outskirts of Kabul] areas last night and today.

Today two mortar shells landed in Aqa Alishams where two young men of one family were martyred and some others were injured.

Relatives of the martyrs and the injured condemned Benazir Bhutto's Taleban at the Red Cross hospital in Karta-e Seh [place name as heard].

Eight houses were also destroyed as a result of the rocket attacks.

Afghanistan: Further on Government Raids Against Taleban

LD1404190996 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of the Air Force bombing in the south of Kabul Province, 29 Taleban have been killed. Reports reaching BAKHTAR say that nine Taleban were killed during air force bombing of the Khayrabad hills and two of the enemy's combat machines were destroyed two days ago. Twenty other members of the hireling group were killed in Rishkhor and the Khayrabad hills, and a number of others were injured as a result of artillery fire by the Islamic army. Two of the Taleban commanders, Mullah Basir and Malek Nurgol, were among those killed.

Recently an explosion occurred in Lowgar Province which killed nine Taleban. Reports reaching BAKHTAR say that the explosion occured in the Baraki-Rajan area while ammunition was being unloaded from a truck at a building. As a result, all of the ammunition and the truck were destroyed. Nine Taleban were also killed in the incident.

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Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Chief Adviser Delivers New Year's Greetings 13 Apr

BK1304152996 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Speech to the nation by Mohammad Habibur Rahman, chief adviser of Bangladesh's caretaker government, on the occasion of the Bengali New Year; place not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Summary] Mohammad Habibur Rahman, in his eight-minute address to the nation, extends greetings to the people on the occasion of the Bengali New Year. He calls for united efforts to build a strong Bangladesh.

The chief adviser refers to his taking over the reins of government only 15 days earlier and says that his caretaker government is functioning in a constitutional way and is making efforts to maintain law and order. He says he is seeking the cooperation of all political parties to run the government's affairs.

The chief adviser then cites briefly the steps taken by his government to build up the country's economy. He asks for the people's cooperation in carrying forward the affairs of government.

Mohammad Habibur Rahman concludes by saying: "I and my colleagues have been impressed by the cooperation that we have received from all of the country's citizens. We will be able to successfully execute the responsibility entrusted to us if your cooperation continues. Let the Bengali New Year bring happiness, peace, and stability to your lives. Long live Bangladesh."

Bangladesh: Wajed Demands Caretaker Government Oversee Defense Ministry

BK1304085096 Hong Kong AFP in English 0523 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, April 13 (AFP) — Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League party has demanded that the defence ministry be placed under Bangladesh's caretaker government chief Muhammad Habibur Rahman, press reports said Saturday [13 April].

A meeting of the party presidium, the highest policy-making body, that ended late Friday resolved that by keeping the defence portfolio President Abdur Rahman Biswas had "virtually expressed no-confidence" in the interim government, the United News of Bangladesh (UNB) news agency reported.

"It is also contrary to the spirit of parliamentary democracy and the constitution," it said, adding the military's image could be tarnished if Biswas, a member of ex-prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party, retained control over it.

This has created doubts about holding free and fair elections, which would be held some time before June 28, it said.

The Presidential spokesman could not be reached immediately for comment, but a government official said the 13th constitutional amendment, which paved the way for polls under a non-party government, also vested the two functions under the president during the interim period.

The government, following newspaper reports on who held the portfolio, said in a statement earlier this month that the ministry of defence and the armed forces division would be under the president. It did not elaborate.

Press reports said Zia held the two offices and Rahman should have continued to do so as he holds the rank and status of a prime minister.

The Awami League's demand came as defence sources Friday said some changes were being discussed within the armed forces, with a large number of postings and retirements expected.

These steps need the approval of the head of the defence ministry.

Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina Pledges Corruption-Free Administration

BK1304153296 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 7 Apr 96 p 1

[By staff correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Awami League [AL] president Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that her party, if voted to power, would establish a corruption-free administrative system and ensure that the administration did not serve any party interest.

"We will build a strong local government structure with adequate powers to the peoples' representatives at the district, thana [subdistrict] and union levels," Hasina said while addressing a mammoth "victory rally" at Manik Mia Avenue in the city.

"BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] government shot 18 peasants to death and deprived the farmers of fertiliser. We will make them happy. If necessary, we will give subsidy to the agriculture sector", she told the rally organised by the party to celebrate "peoples' triumph over illegal Khaleda regime" and realisation of their demand for a caretaker government for holding general elections.

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With cheering supporters holding up hundreds of portraits of Bangabandhu [Father of the nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman] and Sheikh Hasina and the traditional AL election symbol "boat" the AL president said: "If I get a chance to serve the nation, I will eradicate terrorism and corrupt practices from every sphere of the national life".

Hasina reiterated her call to the caretaker government to form an enquiry committee to probe into "corruption and nepotism by the former prime minister, her relatives, members of her cabinet and leaders of BNP."

The AL chief demanded reformation of the administration for the success of the illegal arms recovery drive adding "With guns in the hands of BNP men an election can never be conducted in a free and fair manner." She also demanded overhauling of the police administration.

She also pledged giving autonomy to the electronic media, economic uplift of the downtrodden and the "oppressed" womenfolk.

Before a huge colorful "victory procession" led by Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif was brought out, the AL chief in her 15-minute speech vowed to free the nation from illiteracy within a 10-year period. Expressing her deep concern at the "deteriorating standard of education" in the country and supply shortage of text books, she said development of human resources would be one of her party's priority task, if elected.

"For the last 20 years people of the country have been exploited. I cherish the dream to translate the ideals of the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman into reality by ensuring peoples' basic rights of food, clothes, shelter, health and education."

The AL President also promised sound labour and industrial policies and said more direct foreign investment would be ensured to boost the national economy. The nation suffered a lot due to the corruption and inefficiency of the BNP government, she added.

Brushing aside BNP Chairperson and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's contention that the national economy suffered a setback due to the then Opposition's movement programmes, the AL chief said: "It is not our movement which should be blamed for this setback, rather the BNP caused the losses by not meeting the peoples' demand for a caretaker government for the last two years."

She warned BNP of "retaliation by the people" if it continued to "threaten" employees and officials of the republic and professionals, litterateurs and artistes who had joined the "peoples' movement."

The other AL leaders who addressed the rally included Abdus Samad Azad, Sayeda Zohra Tajuddin, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hussain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Dr Selim, Zillur Rahman, Mohammad Nasim, Matiya Chowdhury, Muzaffar Hussain Paltu, Abul Hasan Kaiser, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Advocate Sahara Khatun and Shamsur Rahman Khan Shahjahan.

Mayors of Dhaka and Chittagong and leaders of various front organisations of the party also addressed the rally conducted by city AL General Secretary Mofazzal Hussain Chowdhury Maya.

In their speeches, the AL leaders came down heavily on the former PM for using official entitlements like national emblem and security guards. They urged the head of the caretaker government to take charge of the Defence Ministry.

Later, a huge "victory procession" paraded the main thoroughfares of the city.

India

India: Al-Faran Claims Kashmir Hostages Now With Authorities

BK1204105596 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Report by Surinder Oberoi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, April 12 (AFP) — A Moslem separatist group which abducted four Western tourists in the strife-torn Indian state of Kashmir more than nine months ago reiterated Friday [12 April] that it was no longer holding the hostages.

Al-Faran, in a statement delivered to newspaper offices here a day after the hostages' relatives issued a fresh appeal for their release, repeated a claim that the four Westerners were in the hands of the Indian authorities.

"The military spokesman of Al-Faran rejects the government of India's claim that the foreign tourists are in our captivity," the statement said, adding that the hostages were "snatched by Indian security forces."

"One of the foreigners was also killed to malign our movement," it said in a reference to the beheading in August of Norwegian tourist Hans-Christian Ostro.

Al-Faran urged international bodies such as Amnesty International and the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Saudi body Hilal-e-Ahmar to "prevail upon the Indian Government to secure (their) release."

"There is a chance that India may kill the four foreigners," it said. "The Indian Government is scheduled to

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hold elections (in Kashmir) and they want some excuse or stunt."

Al-Faran has claimed previously that the Indian army rescued three hostages after a firefight on December 4 near the southern town of Dabran in which a top rebel leader, Abdul Hamid, was killed.

It said a fourth unidentified hostage has been missing since the Dabran gunbattle. The Indian army denies holding the Westerners and accuses Al-Faran of trying to divert attention from the separatist group.

The Al-Faran denial came a day after the appeal from relatives for the release of their loved ones. It was sent through an unnamed Western diplomat based in New Delhi, officials said in this state summer capital.

"We the family members of the four tourists are looking forward to their release as we are missing them," said the statement circulated here in Urdu.

"By their illegal detention not only we are suffering but Kashmir is also affected. By continuing their illegal detention you are getting a bad name.

"We know from personal experience that Kashmiris' are warm- hearted and hospitable people and we have an impression that you share our sufferings," said the appeal, signed in the names of wives and girlfriends of the four hostages.

Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Donald Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert were seized by Al-Faran guerrillas in early July along with the slain Norwegian Ostro while hiking in the Kashmiri Himalayas.

New Delhi says Al-Faran is a front for the Afghan-dominated Harkat-ur-Ansar guerrilla group which kidnapped two British trekkers two years ago but released them unharmed after 17 days.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Moslem majority state, since 1989 when Moslem militants stepped up an anti-Indian rebellion in the Himalayan valley bordering Pakistan.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the Moslem insurgents. Islamabad denies the allegations but extends moral and diplomatic support to what it describes as the Kashmiris' rightful struggle for self-rule.

The two South Asian rivals have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since the subcontinent's independence from British colonial rule.

India: Bomb in Kashmir Election Office Injures 6

BK1204162096 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, April 12 (AFP) — Five civilians and a police officer were injured when a powerful explosion rocked an election office in the troubled Indian state of Kashmir on Friday [12 April], police said.

A bomb exploded around 2:00 p.m. (0830 GMT) on the first floor of the fortified headquarters of Anantnag district, some 40 kilometres (24 miles) south of Srinagar, injuring the six occupants of the building, police said.

Police said the blast heavily damaged rooms in the office of district administrator C.L. Raina, who has been assigned to conduct elections in Anantnag district next month. [Word indistinct] official was not injured in the blast, police said in the summer capital of Kashmir, where a Moslem separatist campaign has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

Moslem separatist groups have vowed to sabotage next month's parliamentary elections in Kashmir but no organisation claimed responsiblity for the blast.

Voters in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, are scheduled to go to the polls on May 7, May 23 and May 30 to elect six representatives of the Lok Sabha, the 545-member lower house of parliament.

Kashmir has been under the direct federal rule of New Delhi for more than six years after the government dissolved the state legislature.

In another incident, Kashmiri Moslem separatist guerrillas ambushed a vehicle overnight carrying several pro-election militants in the southern township of Sopian, police said Friday.

At least one person died and 24 were injured in a gunbattle, police said.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Moslem militants battling for an end to Indian rule over Kashmir.

Islamabad denies the charge but extends dipl@matic support to the insurgency.

It has criticized New Delhi's decision to hold elections in the troubled Himalayan state saying Kashmiris' should be given the right to self-determination.

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India: 4 Soldiers Injured in Grenade Attack on Kashmir Mosque

BK1404135096 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, April 14 (AFP) — At least seven people including a Muslim clergyman died and eight others were injured in separate overnight clashes in the northern Indian state of Kashmir, the police said Sunday [14 April].

A civilian died when Indian troops fired in retaliation after an early Sunday morning grenade attack left four soldiers injured near the Dastgeer Sahib mosque, one of Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrines situated in Srinagar.

"One civilian was killed and six others including four security personnel were critically injured in the attack," a police spokesman here said.

Syed Masood-ul-Hassan, chief priest of Dastgeer Sahib said Indian soldiers stormed the shrine and drove out the devotees present in the complex, adding that several of them were also beaten up.

The police denied the charge.

Kashmir police chief P.S. Gill said some 15 policemen deployed at the Dastgeer Sahib to guard the mosque did not enter it, but added that in cases of bomb blasts his troops often "sanitize" the area of such attacks.

"We have beefed up security arrangements around all mosques in Kashmir and additional policemen have been posted around them to thwart any attempt by Muslim militants to desecrate any shrine," Gill added.

In another incident, unidentified gunmen shot dead the priest of Pattan Mosque, 30 kilometres (18 miles) north of Srinagar, as he was leaving after Sunday morning prayers, the police said.

Officials said four Muslim guerrillas and another civilian were killed in separate overnight clashes in the troubled northern state.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989, when Muslim separatists stepped up their anti-Indian rebellion there.

India: 8 'Foreign Mercenaries' Among 10 Killed in Kashmir

BK1404160596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 10 militants, including eight foreign mercenaries, were killed in an encounter with the BSF [Border Security Force] in Doda District this afternoon. They were involved in several militancy-related crimes. A BSF spokesman said in Jammu that six AK rifles, two pistols, three grenades, and a large quantity of arms were recovered from the site of the encounter.

India: 17 Arrested in Kurnool; 110 'Powerful Bombs' Seized

BK1504074196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Andhra Pradesh, 17 persons have been arrested and a large quantity of bombs and other lethal weapons recovered in Kurnool District. Over 110 powerful bombs, mines, and country-made revolvers were seized from the area.

Iran

Iran: Rafsanjani on Elections, Violence in Lebanon

LD1204181796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0840 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Second Friday sermon by Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Bearing in mind that the first sermon lasted too long, although I gave it as a list, I will try to be brief in the second. [passage omitted]

My second topic is the second round of [Majles] elections. We must thank the people and election officials. To be fair the elections were carried out honorably and were a source of pride for the country. Even our staunch enemies acknowledged to a certain extent that the elections were carried out well, there was a large turnout, and the freedoms were clearly there. Of course there may have been some weak points from the point of view of some people. We hope somehow to clear those problems so that the critics will become convinced on those weak points. God willing, the second round will be carried out better in the light of the experience of the first round.

In earlier elections usually there was a smaller turnout in the second round because the enthusiasm, excitement, and feelings that exist in the first round usually do not continue into the second round. We ask the people to deal with this wisely and bear in mind that their votes determine the future. [passage omitted elaborating importance of turnouts] We must take part in the second round for the same reasons we did so in the first.

There are two points I must make for foreigners and ourselves. As for foreigners, they usually make dilute,

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pedagogic, and perhaps underhand analyses. They categorize Iran's elections somehow into conservative, traditional, moderate, and hardline groups. They make analyses whose objectives are to divide us and somehow to make those who are unhappy with the revolution to be hopeful for the future. Those foreigners are mistaken. Of course I do not think they are really making a mistake. They do understand, but make analyses in that way deliberately. Let me tell you that all of those who turned out in Iran's elections oppose the ominous objectives which flicker in your hearts. [passage omitted]

No matter who succeeds [in the elections] you foreigners will not benefit from them. What is important for us is the crystallization of the ideas of our people. We understand our people and we know that they do not think about anything except the revolution and the interests of Iran. Now, go repeat your analyses. But realize that you are making a mistake if you count on your analyses. These must be amended.

I have a piece of advice, as a brother, for those who are in the election arena, and through their competition they have given the people the scope to choose. Unfortunately sometimes it can be seen that in that competition they accuse each other of things which are unfair. That must not be happen. In an Islamic environment let us use all our efforts to present ourselves well. Let us say this is what we will do, this is how we are, this our plan, these are the positive things we seek to do. The people will understand if those statements mean anything, if they are not true in the case of other [candidates]. It is terrible for those brothers and sisters, who have passed through the stages of selection and come to the [election] arena and their competence has been declared, to accuse each other. That is neither Islamic nor rational. And one regrets later that one has said something against another. Then that turns into a grudge and stays with them. And when they go to the Majles they will squabble. Outside [the Majles] they will indulge in obstructionism. Anyhow, Islamic and revolutionary ethics and state management wisdom call for making efforts not to smear each other in such competition so that we can deal with each other more sincerely and with greater cooperation after the elections and under all conditions. Of course such things are most rare in Iran; and not at all comparable with what exists in the world. Ethics are observed here far more than other places. Nevertheless one notices instances that one does not wish to see.

Another issue is the anniversary of the Housing Foundation. That holy foundation was set up on the initiative of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni] and has done much service in the rural areas, the deprived and war-stricken areas in the past years. [passage omitted]

Next issue. The Army Day ahead of us. We must value it greatly. [passage omitted]

The last and unfortunate point is the issue of aggression against Lebanon. That is Israel's ominous and shameless aggression against Lebanon which is indeed a disgrace for humanity and particularly for the world of Islam. In southern Lebanon, Israel, with all the resources at its disposal, is incapable of dealing with and fighting a few combatant resistance fighters who are trying hard to expel Israel from their own territory. When Israel receives a blow there, it attacks cities using helicopters, warships and jets. It attacks Beirut, Ba'labakk, and a hospital. That is the ultimate case of dastardliness. That is the ultimate case of weakness in the true sense of armed confrontation. It is exactly the same as what the Iraqis used to do. Once we made an advance on the war front, the Iraqis would launch a missile attack against the city of Dezful. [passage omitted]

The disgrace is due to the fact that such an ominous incident has taken place and the United Nations confines itself to a mere expression of regret. Should a body responsible for such world issues merely express regret? Instead of attacking Israel, America attacks the Lebanese resistance force and says that it was they who provoked Israel. They [Lebanese resistance forces] are merely calling for the implementation of the UN resolution which says that Israel must leave southern Lebanon. France also emphasized that point last night and said that it does accept it. But America is saying that they [the Lebanese] have provoked [Israel]. They are struggling for the implementation of the UN resolution; Israel is dropping bombs on their homes and America is saying that Hizballah is to blame. It is with this logic that America intends to be the champion of the new world order; with this kind of bullying, discrimination and injustice. [participants chant slogans including Death to America and Death to Israel]

We also regret that the world of Islam and Arab countries are pulling their punches and showing weakness toward such an important issue. That means giving Israel a green light so that it can attack any Arab or Islamic country it chooses to. It can start with a small attack and then go on to bigger ones. That is the way it has been previously too. The world of Islam should have been mourning today. The world of Islam should have shaken the world today. Arab countries should have cried out that without any reason, an aggressive country has attacked a defenseless country such as Lebanon, a defenseless city such as Beirut, shooting people in their cars using helicopters. It is worse than a jungle out there. What savage would behave that way? That is indeed cause for regret. May God Almighty bestow Muslims

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with the necessary fervor that all Muslims should possess. [passage omitted]

Iran: Rafsanjani Denounces Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

LD1204153396 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA — President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today denounced the latest wave of Israeli aggression on Lebanon as a "shameless act" and "a disgrace for humanity and the world of Islam".

Calling on Muslim countries to break their silence against the crimes of Israel, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said in his Friday prayer sermons at Tehran University: "the Islamic world should be in a state of mourning, and should put pressure on the world and international organisations against these savage attacks."

He regretted the silence of Arab and Muslim countries towards "such an important issue," and said: "unfortunately, this silence, gives the Zionist regime a green light to continue its aggression against other Islamic states."

In what is being seen as an upsurge in Israel's policy of state terrorism, Zionist aircraft launched raids on southern Lebanon and Beirut on Thursday [11 April] night and Friday, taking a toll of civilian life.

The Iranian president also censured the United Nations and said that civilians are being killed in Lebanon by the Zionist regime, "but the U.N. expresses only regret towards these sinister acts, while the United States, which speaks of the new world order, supports the aggressor."

The president, whose remarks were vociferously greeted with shouts of "allaho akbar" (god is great) and "death to Israel", by tens of thousands of worshippers, described Iran's foreign policy as the "voice of justice and truth."

He said that "most world countries have condoned the historically intolerable oppression of the people of Palestine, and only Islamic Iran is supporting the cry of the oppressed people of Palestine, without bowing to any form of tyranny."

Rafsanjani said that "the resistance of the people of Iran in the face of a bullying and arrogant world, is the reason behind the unmanly allegations levelled against us, and the forces assembled to thwart our economic cooperation with world countries."

However, he added: "today Islamic Iran in the shadows of spiritual greatness and on the basis of its firm political, economic and social foundations, has been turned into a power, making the sanctions of the 'great satan' as harmless as the breeze blowing against Mount Damavand (Iran's highest peak)."

In his sermons, the president enumerated the achievements of the Islamic Republic and said that because of its strong political, economic and cultural base, Iran has succeeded in defeating the sanctions and allegations.

"America tried its best to prevent the sale of Iranian oil on world markets, but today our oil sales have been booked in advance without the least problems," he pointed out.

He said there was a time when Iran was an importer of petrochemical raw material, oil derivatives, and agricultural products, but today the country has turned into a big producer and exporting these products, after meeting the domestic demand.

Rafsanjani said that the scientific and technological backbone of the country has been strengthened, and thanks to Iranian experts, giant projects like dam-building, power plants and oil refineries are coming with the minimum of expenditure.

"We are even providing technical services to other countries, a far cry when Iran was depended on industrial countries for even the most basic technical problems, he added.

He noted that the water resources of the country have been harnessed and at the moment, 130 dam projects are in progress around the country, with one dam going on stream at an average of 45 days.

In the medical field, the most advanced and complicated surgeries are being performed at home by Iranian medics, said the president, focusing on the progress of education in various fields.

All strata of the society especially the women, he said, have greatly beneitted from educational progress, and "today Iranian women, with their active presence in all spheres of society, can be classed as the most progressive women of the world."

On achievements in the defence sector, he said, "if today Islamic Iran is defending its ideals with such power, it is due to its firm and tested defensive power. The enemies of the Islamic revolution, know very well what great power is behind the people of Iran."

On the parliamentary elections held last month, he dismissed the labels of "left", "right", "traditional right", "radicals" and "pragmatists", as the creation of the western press, and said this is part of their wishes to portray the revolution as fragmented.

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Rafsanjani said that all groups are firmly committed to the ideals of the Islamic revolution and the leadership of "Velayat-e Faqih" (Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i), as the massive turnout for the parliamentary polls indicated.

Iran: Rafsanjani, Al-Qadhdhafi Discuss Attack on Lebanon

LD1304152296 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone conversation with the Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi today, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani condemned the Zionist regime's attacks on Lebanon and the killing of defenseless people and expressed regret about the silence, in the face of such acts of blatant aggression, of international organizations and countries claiming to be defenders of human rights.

The president added: While Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims are being massacred by the usurper Zionists with open support from the United States, some Islamic and Arab countries are, unfortunately, lacking in the required initiative to seek solutions and confront the aggressive policies of the Jerusalem-occupying regime.

In the course of the telephone conversation, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the need for joint action by Islamic countries to defend the rights of the oppressed people of Lebanon and Palestine and to confront the expansionism of the Zionist regime.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi, for his part, described as principled and brave the Islamic Republic of Iran's stances in response to the hegemonistic aims of the Jerusalem-occupying regime in the region. He spoke of Israel's recent attacks on Lebanon as an example of state terrorism supported by the United States, and said: The usurper Israeli regime is harboring the evil ambition of gaining total mastery over the entire region.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi expressed the hope that all Islamic countries will, by adopting independent and unaffiliated policies, stand alongside the Islamic Republic of Iran as a powerful Islamic country and not allow the Jerusalem-occupying regime to fulfill its evil, hegemonistic aims.

Iran: Rafsanjani, al-Qadhdhafi Urge Islamic Action Against Israel

LD1304171896 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA — President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in a telephone conversation on Saturday [13 April] studied the extent of the criminal aggression of the Zionist regime on southern Lebanon. President Rafsanjani condemned the Israeli brutal onslaught of merciless killings and woundings of defenseless and innocent civilians in the southern Lebanon. He severely criticized the international forums and the nations, which staunchly advocated so-called human rights, for maintaining a continued silence towards the blatant aggression on Lebanon.

He said at the time when the Palestinian Muslim brothers and sisters are systematically being slaughtered in southern Lebanon with the visible support of the United States, unfortunately, certain Islamic and Arab states do not show sufficient interest in trying to find a common strategy to challenge the aggressive policies of the occupying Qods [Jerusalem] regime.

President Rafsanjani stressed the need for a joint action by the Islamic states to defend the rights of the suppressed people of Lebanon and Palestine and deal effectively with the Israeli adventurism.

Al-Qadhdhafi appreciated Iranian principled and brave stand towards the hegemonism of the occupying Qods regime in the region and said, "it is hurtening [as received] to observe today that certain Arab and Islamic states are just the mere witnesses of the brutal aggressions of the Zionists on southern Lebanon." He said Israeli recent aggression is based on the state terrorism supported by the U.S. in the region and that the practice of state terrorism by the Zionists recognizes neither borders nor limitations. He said the usurper Qods regime is cherishing the ambition of superiority over the region.

The Libyan leader said the recent aggression of the Zionist regime on southern Lebanon, the military agreement between Turkey and Israel, indicates the overwhelming support of the U.S. to Israel. Al-Qadhdhafi said the silence of the international forums, the indifference of the regional states are the outcome of Sharm al-Shaykh summit held last month in Egypt. Al-Qadhdhafi hoped that the Islamic states needed to adopt a firm and independent policy in line with Islam alongside the Islamic Republic of Iran, a powerful Muslim state to prevent the usurper regime of Qods from attaining its ominous objectives.

Iran: French Minister Requests Iranian Help in Lebanon

LD1304175396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a message to Foreign Minister Velayati, the French foreign minister has called on Iran

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to take part in the international efforts to prevent an escalation of the clashes in Lebanon.

The French foreign minister has expressed concern about the recent conflicts in Lebanon. He has called for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, demanding a full withdrawal from Lebanese territories that are occupied by the Zionist regime.

Iran: Velayati Welcomes French Proposal for Lebanon Consultation

LD1504065696 Tehran IRNA in English 0642 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati welcomed French proposal for cooperation between the two countries to stop bloodshed in Lebanon.

Velayati made the remark in response to the Saturday [13 April] message of his French counterpart Herve de Charette who called for Iran's involvement in efforts of international community to prevent intensification and continuation of confrontations in Lebanon.

In the message, submitted to Charette by Iran's ambassador to Paris Hamid Reza Asefi on Monday, Velayati said the Zionist regime is the main element behind the tension in the region and genocide and homelessness of hundreds of thousands of Lebanese citizens.

The French foreign minister in the meeting with Asefi stressed the important role and status of Iran in the region and expressed hope that genocide and bloodshed will be prevented in the region, Lebanon in particular, through cooperation and consultations with the Iranian foreign minister.

The exchange of messages followed the recent aggression of the Qods occupying regime on Lebanon.

Iran: Velayati, French Foreign Minister Discuss Lebanon

LD1504112596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone conversation today, French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed the latest developments in Lebanon and the tragic consequences of the recent Zionist acts of aggressions and crimes committed against the innocent and defenseless people of Lebanon.

In the conversation, Mr. Charette referred to French concerns about the situation in Lebanon and a visit by the French President Jacques Chirac to that country and informed Mr. Velayati about his own intention to visit the region today.

Pointing to the important role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Middle East and the dangerous situation in the region, he called on our country to help end the fighting and bloodshed in Lebanon.

In turn, Mr. Velayati spoke about the tragic situation in Lebanon, which has been the result of the Israeli aggression and killing of innocent people, and emphasized that influential countries in the region must take serious steps to end the aggression.

Our country's foreign minister referred to the imminent trip by an Iranian delegation to Lebanon and said cooperation between the two countries was positive in ending the crisis in Lebanon.

Iran: Lebanese Ambassador Calls Iran 'Best Friend' of Lebanese People

LD1504104596 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA — Lebanese ambassador to tehran, Munir Talhuk, in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Monday [15 April], described Iran as the best friend and sympathizer of the Lebanese nation.

He added that Beirut is contacting and consulting with friendly countries to stop crimes and aggressions of the Zionist regime.

Talhuk also handed over a message of Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to Velayati.

Expressing regret and sorrow over the atrocities committed against the innocent and defenceless people of Lebanon, Velayati said the aggressive acts of the Zionist regime are the result of its usurper nature.

Receiving full support of the U.S., the Zionist regime is after expanding its domination over the region and pursues this goal under the false cover of peace-seeking and the so called peace accords. However, in case of failure, it follows this objective through the means of war and aggression, said the foreign minister.

Velayati stressed that resistance against domination seeking efforts of the Zionist usurpers is the duty of all Islamic countries.

Terming unity and solidarity of the government and nation of Lebanon as the key to the victory of the valiant resistance of the Lebanese people against Israeli aggression, he stressed continuation of Iran's regional and international political campaign to eradicate tyranny and aggression against Lebanon.

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Praising Iran's humanitarian assistance to the Lebanese people, Talhuk elaborated on the recent Zionist attacks on Lebanon saying 400,000 people have become homeless and over 50 villages devastated in Zionist shellings.

He termed as mere lie Zionist regime's claims that its attacks are in retaliation for the missile attacks of Hizballah on the occupied Palestine. On the contrary the attacks of the Hizballah are in retaliation for the Zionist shellings, said the ambassador.

Talhuk underscored that Zionist aggressions would lead nowhere due to resistance put up by the Lebanese people.

He said that the fundamental solution lies in the implementation of the U.N. resolution 425 calling for withdrawal of usurpers from the occupied territories in Lebanon.

Iran: Velayati Condemns Israeli Attacks in Lebanon

LD1404093896 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that what is happening in Lebanon these days is another "clear evidence" proving the "aggressive nature" of the Zionist regime.

In an interview with the English daily 'IRAN NEWS' printed Sunday [14 April], he noted that Israel recognized no boundary in pursuing its "illegitimate goals" in the region.

As to the Israelis attacking defenseless people in Lebanon, the minister urged certain Western countries, which he said sided with Israel, to stop the savage attacks launched by Tel Aviv against the innocent Lebanese people.

The people of Lebanon want nothing but [words indistinct] withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied south Lebanon, he said, adding that it was high time for the U.N. to pressure Israel to halt its attacks.

On the recent military cooperation between Israel and Turkey, Velayati stressed that every Muslim nation was duty bound to defend Islamic values and principles.

Any action bolstering the Zionist regime in practice would undoubtedly be contrary to the interests of the Islamic world, he underlined, adding, "we have stated this to the Turkish officials openly and without any consideration. We will continue to convey our explicit views to them in the future as well."

He concluded that Iran and Turkey are neighbors and "we will not remain silent vis-a-vis any event that might jeopardize our national security."

Iran: Velayati Condemns Israel's 'Savage' Attacks on Lebanon

LD1404112996 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the Zionist regime's attacks against Lebanon and the killing and wounding of a large number of unprotected and defenseless women and children of that country by the Zionist regime's forces, the majority of Western countries have maintained silence and reacted feebly to these actions. However, some Asian and African countries have condemned the Zionist regime's attacks on Lebanon, calling for an end to the aggression of the Zionist regime against Lebanon.

Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, also had something to say in this connection:

[Begin Velayati recording] What has been happening in Lebanon in the past few days is another clear and actual indication of the aggressive nature of the Zionist regime. The true face of the Zionist regime is exactly that which has, once again, showed itself in the Middle East arena. That is, they do not recognize any borders in their drive to reach their illegitimate objectives. They have attacked, by air, sea, and artillery, helpless people in the southern regions of Lebanon, in Beirut, in different parts of Lebanon. They have either killed or wounded a large number of innocent people.

There is no political, humanitarian, or international justification for these inhuman acts.

We call on Western governments — some of whom, like America, support Israel unilaterally — to respond, in any form or manner, to the cries of the world's free people and world public opinion, and halt Israel's savage attacks on the innocent people of Lebanon. After all, what have the government and people of Lebanon asked for other than the repeated demand that UN Security Council Resolution 425 be implemented, and that Israel should withdraw from the areas it occupies in southern Lebanon? This demand was also made in recent remarks made by Lebanon's prime minister, in his interview with the mass media.

Lebanon's government and people are under pressure because of this legitimate demand. The people of Lebanon are under pressure and being killed in this savage manner by the Zionist regime because they are defending the occupied territory.

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We think that the time has come for the United Nations to bring pressure to bear on the Zionist regime and prevent the continuation of its attacks against the defenseless people of Lebanon. We strongly condemn these moves by Israel. [end recording]

Iran: Velayati Interviewed on Events in Lebanon

LD1404195296 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Interview with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by studio announcer in Tehran — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Let us conduct an interview now with Mr. ['Ali Akbar] Velayati, the eminent foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Thank you, Mr. Velayati, for coming to the studio. In view of the past few days' attacks by the Zionist regime on different parts of Lebanon, please tell us if there is any link between this extensive military attack and that regime's political statements and positions? Also, on the whole, what, in your assessment, is Israel's aim in such acts of aggression?

[Velayati] [passage omitted] What I have to say is that, following the defeat suffered by Israel and the United States at the Sharm al-Shaykh conference and, subsequently, at the so-called anti-terrorist conference in the United States and the postponement of the planned conference in Brussels, it was totally clear that a measure, in terms of military action, would be taken by Israel. This was foreseen by our political analyst before the Israeli attack began.

I have to say that the defenders in the Islamic resistance group of Hizballah and Lebanon were also prepared. That which is being done by Israel — while being a cause for grief and regret to us — is, nevertheless, not by any means a surprise, because we did not and do not expect anything other than this from Israel. This must serve as a lesson to gullible and simple-minded governments. The aggressive nature of the Zionist regime — a regime whose basis is usurpation, occupation, and state terrorism — such a regime will never end its aggressive policy, especially at a time when it is suffering defeats in its political initiatives. It will never stop resorting to the iron fist policy.

As you can see, it has attacked Lebanon. It does not recognize any borders. It regards human rights as a plaything. Respect for the frontiers of other countries and international borders is nothing but a plaything in the hands of Israel, and the main supporters of Israel are either silent or, as your correspondent in Beirut told us, are actually backing it.

Of course, I have to say that defeat at the Sharm al-Shaykh conference did not only mean that a position was not taken against the Islamic Republic of Iran and revolutionary nations. It was rather that Europe gradually separated its position from the United States and Israel. In its visit to Iran and its discussions with us and the reports it presented later, the troika [representatives from the past, present, and future presidents of the EU], in the statement that was issued two days ago by the Italian foreign minister as the president of the European Union asked Israel to observe Security Council Resolution 425, which demands the withdrawal of Zionist forces from southern Lebanon and that it ceases the killing of civilians. This is completely different from the position announced tonight by the United States. And the recent trip by [French President] Chirac made to Lebanon, this may have brought Israel's action forward in fact, because they do not at all wish to see Lebanon developing as an independent country in the region.

As you know, Mr. Chirac promised a substantial sum toward the reconstruction of Lebanon. Now, you can see that everything that the Lebanese had been building up during these recent years has been undone under this extensive destruction wrought by Israeli aircraft in the defenseless skies of Lebanon.

[Announcer] Thank you, Mr. Velayati. Our colleague in Beirut has a question for you.

[Correspondent, via telephone link-up] Thank you. We also benefitted from Mr. Velayati's analysis. As you know, the tragedies that are being inflicted on Lebanon now are not unconnected with the process of compromise. And it is clear that the current process of compromise was set in motion under pressure from the United States. Mr. Velayati, in your opinion can the Arab governments that have been playing an active role in this process demonstrate any independence? And, if they wish to adopt a stance independent from the United States, do you think they can express this?

[Velayati] When the Camp David accord was signed, some people imagined that the Palestinian story had come to an end. However, the coming into existence of the Intifadah and its expansion and the overall uprising of the honorable people of Palestine showed that the Palestinian people thought differently.

The signing of the humiliating Oslo accord between [Yasir] 'Arafat and the Israelis again created this impression and idea in the minds of some gullible people that the Palestinian story had come to an end. However, the extensive measures taken by the Palestinians who oppose compromise proved that this was not the case.

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From the time when this so-called peace accord was signed between 'Arafat and Israel, we foresaw everything that is happening today. This has been recorded in our discussions with the foreign ministers from European countries and with the other countries that held discussions about this with us. We predicted, about two years ago, everything that is happening today.

We must, therefore, stress that the Israelis and their supporters, specifically the Americans, have failed in their peace agreement. They were unable to force Syria to sign anything which ran counter to the principles and interests it believes in.

Never has the foreign policy of the United States been as shameful as it is today. The American secretary of state has virtually given a blank check to Israel, allowing it to do whatever it likes. This will, undoubtedly, lead to a very negative reaction against the United States among Arab and Muslim nations and we can see that even some of the countries that used to be first in line in seeking peace with Israel show signs of regret and sorrow in their remarks today.

[Announcer] [passage omitted] As the last question, I would like to ask what the Islamic Republic of Iran has been doing during the past few days, in the course of the wide-scale attacks by the Zionist regime on Lebanon, in terms of giving practical assistance to the Lebanese Government and the Muslim people of that country?

[Velayati] I can summarize it in a few points. One is diplomatic activities: Contact with the relevant countries and officials. There was a letter from the French foreign minister to me yesterday. I replied today and, an hour ago, our ambassador had a meeting with French Foreign Minister de Charette, and submitted my reply to him. We have started a joint effort with France. This afternoon Mr. Va'ezi, the deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, called the ambassadors of a number of effective European countries, as well as of Russia, Japan, and China, to the Foreign Ministry and asked them to play an active role. He has explained the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Regarding diplomatic activities, during the next few days, tomorrow, a high ranking delegation from the Foreign Ministry will be going to Syria and Lebanon. Regarding humanitarian assistance, today, with coordination between the Foreign Ministry and the Relief Committee, assistance has begun in Beirut. [passage omitted]

Our contacts will continue. From the start, we strongly condemned this savage attack by the Zionist regime and we regret the fact that the United Nations has not done anything. However, we will continue our regional and international efforts to bring an end to these savage actions of Israel. At the same time, we are standing alongside the government and people of Lebanon and we will not forego any kind of humanitarian assistance.

[Announcer] God willing. Thank you very much, Mr. Velayati.

Iran: Radio Comments on Israeli Attack on Lebanon

LD1304111496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1002 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Zionist regime has started a new wave of terrorist attacks on Lebanon and is right now heavily bombarding Lebanese towns and villages from air and ground. [passage omitted]

The file of the Zionist regime ever since its establishment is full of cases of killing innocent people and violating the sovereignty of its neighbors. In addition to occupying and annexing Arab lands, the Zionist regime has also chosen to keep a part of southern Lebanon which it occupied in 1961. Furthermore, with total disregard for the UN Security Council resolution, this regime is still not prepared to unconditionally leave these territories.

The Islamic resistance combatants have taken up arms for a sustained and continuous campaign from the very early days of the occupation in a bid to regain their lands and drive the occupiers away. From the viewpoint of the Zionist occupiers and their American supporters, this struggle is a terrorist act, and they have repeatedly called for its cessation without any consideration for the legal rights of the people of Lebanon.

The massacre of the Lebanese people and the destruction of their homes take place at a time when the Zionists have started a huge propaganda campaign in the world against the defensive operations of the Palestinian and Lebanese groups. They convene ostentatious international conferences.

In a bid to spread its economic domination in the Middle East, Israel has in recent years hidden its face behind a peace-seeking mask and has promised to return the lost rights of its Arab neighbors. However, now that the time for the fulfillment of these promises has arrived and now that the compromise process has suffered a debacle, Israel — seeking to fulfill its domineering objectives — has resorted to coercion and military power. It is for the attainment of these objectives that Israel has employed its deadly missiles.

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Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal: Finance Minister Asks French Counterpart To Continue Aid

BK1204134396 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 12 Apr 96

[Report by THE KATHMANDU POST reporter — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, April 11 - Minister of Finance Dr Ram Sharan Mahat met with the French Minister for Finance and Foreign Trade Yves Galland at the latter's office in Paris Wednesday [10 April]. On the occasion Minister Dr Mahat apprised the French Minister of various reform measures undertaken in Nepal in the last four years. Dr Mahat also requested the French Minister to resume French Protocol on the Economic Cooperation, use the US$20 million provided earlier for the Arun-III Hydro Power Project to various power transmission and distribution projects and continue the Food Aid Programme.

The French Minister Galland agreed to give sympathetic consideration to the Nepalese request and informed the Finance Minister Dr Mahat that the French Mission would be dispatched to Kathmandu soon with a view to finalize the projects including the power transmission and distribution project to be financed under the Protocol.

Nepal: Finance Minister Outlines Reforms to Donor Group in France

BK1204134696 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 12 Apr 96

[Report by THE KATHMANDU POST reporter — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU - Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat has urged the donor community to support reform process in Nepal, and reassured that His Majesty's Government is fully determined to alleviate poverty.

Addressing Nepal Aid Group meeting at Paris on Thursday [11 April], Dr Mahat said that the present government has assigned priority to projects which can help alleviate poverty and accelerate economic growth. "Accordingly, highest priority has been given to agriculture, human resource development (education, health and drinking water), physical infrastructure and tourism," he said.

According to the text of speech received here, Mahat said that the high rate of population growth and increasing rate of environmental degradation have pervaded the task of poverty alleviation. "Our reform programs are being consolidated and strengthened to address these problems," he said.

Dr Mahat stressed that the Nepali Congress led coalition government is committed to build and expand the reform process taken by the 1991-Congress government. He said that the Government has ensured lead role to private sector in areas where it has distinct advantage. The government's role is to facilitate the growth of private sector in trade, industry and other productive sectors.

Dr Mahat declared that the present government wants to maintain macro-economic stability and contain fiscal deficit through improved public expenditure management and additional revenue mobilization, appropriate pricing policy and prudent financial as well as monetary policies.

The Finance Minister also said that in order to make trade competitive, tariff rates were reduced, export procedures were simplified, real exchange rate was depreciated and Nepali currency was made fully convertible in the current account.

While addressing the donors' group, Mahat pointed out the need to improve aid co-ordination. "Aid assistance should basically flow into the priority areas as defined by the Government and we would like to ensure a balance between the social sector and infrastructural development programs," he said.

Presenting an account of measures undertaken during the last five years, Mahat said industrial policy was also improved further. "Nepal welcomes foreign investments, practically, in every sector of the economy. Full repatriation of dividends is guaranteed and liberal exit policy is adopted. 'One window' system is in operation to provide all Government services to domestic and foreign investors through a single institution," Mahat added. The Government has recently eliminated the minimum capital requirement of Rs. [rupees] 20 million in respect of private foreign investment.

Explaining the privatisation programme of the government, Mahat said, "So far, ten public enterprises have been privatized. The new government has already privatized one, and six more public enterprises are in the process of being privatized this year."

Terming the impact of economic reforms as encouraging, Mahat said, "Trade liberalization resulted in higher level of imports and exports. Revenue growth of over 25 percent within the last two years has raised the revenue to GDP from 9.1 percent in 1992/93 to 11.7 percent in 1994/95."

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As a result of prudent fiscal policy, the fiscal deficit has declined significantly. The average ratio of fiscal deficit to GDP, which was 10.1 percent during 1984/85-1990/91, declined to 8.1 percent during 191/92-1994/95. This further dropped to 6.8 percent of GDP in 1994/95.

According to Mahat the government has taken various measures to enhance revenue collection. They include, broadening the tax base and making tax structure more sustainable, making tax rates rational to bring in more people into tax net, and making tax administration simple, efficient and transparent.

Responding to the most of donors' complain about the weak project implementation capacity, Dr Mahat said, "We are making serious efforts to respond to the often-repeated concern regarding weak project implementation capacity."

The Nepal Aid Group meeting is being organised by the World Bank at Paris from 10-12 April, where 23 countries and international agencies are taking part to discuss exclusively about Nepal's need for economic and social development.

Nepal Government in its report has shown the need of US$1.26 billion for the period of next three years.

Nepal: Editorial Urges Stronger Foreign Service

BK1204135596 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 12 Apr 96

[Commentary by Yagya Bahadur Hamal: "Nepalese Foreign Policy: Strategies for Efficacy" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] All governments after the restoration of democracy in 1990 and the promulgation of the 1990 Constitution, have, within the gambit of the constitutional provisions, taken up in their foreign policy agenda the policies of strict adherence to the principles of the UN, Non-alignment, friendly and equal relations with all countries, respect for international laws, peace and order. Though some have given focus to human rights and others to equality and justice, the basic tenets and parameter of our foreign policy is the same as enshrined in the Constitution.

Efficacy

To meet the requirements of our foreign policy objectives, the need of the time has been the sharpening of our foreign policy tools in order to strike the desired goals. The whole mechanism, from diplomatic practices to office management, needs timely adjustment. The basic strategies which our foreign policy needs have been discussed below.

Non-Aligned Approach

Some nations align for political purpose. Israel-USA nexus has its underlined motive of Israel's development through US assistance and the spread of US interests in the Middle East. Few nations like Mongolia are geographically compelled to align with the neighbours like China. Nations with similar political systems such as USA and UK vs China and Cuba feel themselves closer than others. Another factor that unites the interests of the nations is religio-ethical harmony. The Muslims-Croats-Serbs entanglement in Bosnia- Herzegovina is an obvious example. On the other hand, nations like Switzerland, well equipped with financial and technological resources, have always stood neutral, turning this neutrality tantamount to their economic prosperity. Among these facets of foreign policy, most of the third world nations have opted for non-alignment for their independence, integrity and development. In this spirit, Nepal, from the very dawn of democracy in 2007 BS, has been a staunch adherent of non-aligned foreign policy.

Geographically entrapped by India and China, it is Nepal's compulsion to remain non-aligned. The nation in its stage of low economic growth, nascent democracy, and lack of sufficient infrastructures for development can not afford neutrality which presupposes economic progress as well as socio-political stability. Siding either North and South, developed or underdeveloped, powerful or small, rich or poor, definitely reduces international support for us. This is a must that Nepal can never overlook. But along with the change of the governments, the policy of non-alignment has undergone certain flaws at intervals. Some solicited excessively for human rights and seemed prone to democratic countries whereas the others called upon equality and social justice, extending warm hands with the socialist nations. Though the principles of 'equidistance' or 'equiproximity' should be noted while executing our foreign policy, giving more emphasis on one side could jeopardize the heightening relationships with all and lessen foreign interest which is extremely vital for the underdeveloped nations like Nepal.

Collapse and resurgence of systems, is a feature of dynamism. But the socio- cultural relations, historical and geographical realities remain the same. It is in this perspective that Nepal should stand firm in its non-aligned foreign policy. 'Friendship with all and enmity with none' should be supplemented with the motto of 'peace, progress and prosperity.'

Strengthening Nepalese Missions

Diplomatic relation with 108 nations shows burgeoning trends of Nepalese diplomacy. Currently 21 diplomatic

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missions abroad, including 16 embassies, 2 consulates, 2 permanent missions and a liaison office, are carrying out our foreign policy. At those missions do have the role of promoting Nepal's economic, socio-political relations with other nations, revamping them in changed global context draws due attention.

Since Nepalese missions abroad have greater responsibility of furthering relations with the host countries, exchanging socio-cultural aspects, and more importantly creating conducive environment for greater economic cooperation in order to receive more financial assistance for Nepal's development efforts, they need to run by highly capable and competent personages. The ambassadorial nominations must fall on the categories of luminaries who do have an excellent academic performance, compromising personality, skill of negotiation and mediation, deep knowledge and capability of analysing national and international state of affairs and less political, more national character. The government had better set basic criteria for an ambassadorial appointment by an Act since most of the people have an intrinsic desire that the chiefs of the missions be selected from independent, academic, intellectual circle rather than from politically motivated persons. These criteria not only facilitate appointment of highly capable chiefs of the missions, but also give stability to diplomatic service, reducing the costs of appointment and recall of the ambassadors at every change of the governments.

For better function, the officials of Foreign Ministry should be posted to our missions on the basis of their qualifications, skill and capability. For example, an official having sound knowledge and high academic performance in the subject of commerce is suitable for a consulate . Foreign Ministry does have a large storage of highly qualified persons selected on the basis of merit. What the Ministry needs is to squeeze the potentials of its officials for excellent performance.

International Peace Centre

Handicapped by the lack of technology and financial resources, nations like Nepal had rather shun political dreams. 'Development', must be our ultimate goal and not political. The present constitution provides for the institutionalization of peace in Nepal but no progress has been made so far. For this Nepal had better propose itself before the international community that it be declared an 'International Peace Centre.' For this the purpose, beneficiaries, and contribution to world peace through this Peace Centre must be laid down before the world.

Separate Foreign Service

Foreign service, being a separate service by its nature, needs separate status in Nepal's Civil Service.

Noting relative significance of 'specialization,' Civil Service Act 2049 has created ten separate services within Nepal Civil Service. Surprisingly the Act has created Nepal Parliamentary, Service, slightly different from Nepal Administrative Service, but it has not felt to have a separate Foreign Service. The nature of service, work procedures, working styles and functions of Foreign Ministry is quite different from other Ministries. But foreign service has been included in Administrative Service simply as a Foreign Service Group. Foreign Ministry and the officials therein do not always need to run on the rules and spirits of other government organizations. They should work in different ambiance, in an international context. The basic work procedures and code of conduct of these officials must match international standards.

Countries like India, the USA, the UK have given Foreign Service a separate status, recognizing its international dimension. Nepal must not overlook this development. A separate Foreign Service should be created by an Act including the officials working in Foreign Ministry and diplomatic missions abroad. The posts vacant in this service must be filled only through competitive examinations conducted by Public Service Commission. Transferring officials from other Ministries to the posts of Foreign Service in favour or interest proves harmful both to the officials of Foreign Ministry since they are demoralized by the entrance of seniors, as well as to the efficacy of the Ministry since the new comers might not have the required competence. Since Foreign Ministry has been a gathering of luminaries, certain highly qualified officials of Administrative Service, if deemed necessary, might enter into it through interdepartmental competitive exam conducted by Public Service Commission. The spirit of absorption of qualitative persons should be continued. For this a highly competitive course of study and criteria of recruitment should be prescribed. To impact diplomatic training to the officials in a systematic way is a plus point in this regard. The work performance must be evaluated in an objective, scientific basis, giving more emphasis on knowledge, ability and academic excellence. **Revamping Foreign Ministry** As Foreign Ministry is the single organ of government to prepare, implement and evaluate its foreign policy, the constitution, conduction and frequent re-orientation of it is an important task. The ministry, run now by a total 221 personnel, 123 at the central level (at the Ministry) and 98 diplomats at missions abroad, is running short of certain intradepartmental adjustment of functions, inappropriate work divisions, lack of proper

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positional adjustments and insouciance in policy, planning and information procedures. The anomalies, shortcomings and desideratum are to be sorted out in order to execute our foreign policy par excellence.

As the present Divisions of the Ministry neither meet the need of emerging regional and international groupings such as APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation], AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area], NAFTA, WTO, nor cover all areas of the globe such as South Africa, South America, re-orientation of them into more comprehensive Divisions, Bureaus and Desks has been felt. Since communication plays a lead role in disseminating foreign policy, the existing communication section of the Ministry should be given extra impetus. Regular publication of a journal, covering articles on foreign policies, international affairs and international relations, and a Foreign Policy Forum for talk programmes and interactions are needed.

On the field of manpower planning, any posts created within the organizational framework of Foreign Ministry or missions should accrue more benefit than the cost it renders. Posts merely created for extra job opportunities will be certainly an additional burden for the nation, leading towards organizational chaos. Not only economic but also cultural, political counsellors are also needed for appointment in order to represent all sectors of national life. For instance, an economist may not be fully capable of grasping real political trends as a student of political science is. Counsellors of different types should be selected, if available, from the existing manpower of Foreign Ministry. If not possible, persons of academic excellence, high skill and high performance in related fields should be provided with these assignments.

New Missions

It has been felt that Nepal's representation to the world by 21 missions abroad is least and not properly region-wise. South America, Scandinavian countries and Southern Africa have not been represented properly. In this light, readjustment of Nepalese diplomatic missions and establishment of new ones for proper regional representation need appropriate considerations.

The principles of creating new missions should be guided by cost- benefit analysis. The output that a mission generates is to be much more than the costs it bears. To a country which provides for diverse potentials for bilateral development in areas such as trade, tourism, industry, finance and socio-cultural aspects, and from which Nepal could draw large scale financial assistance, it invariably is imperative to establishment a new mission. An extensive study for rational planning of such new establishment should be geared well.

As physical representation through the missions facilities close, in-depth study of socio-cultural as well as politico-economic dynamism of the country represented, it may open the doors of development of the two countries in real ground. Representatives by a non-residential (without the establishment of missions) Ambassador lags behind this reality.

Economic Diplomacy

The conventional role of diplomacy is being sidelined by the concept of economic diplomacy which aims at greater economic achievement in the relationship between nations, financial institutions and multilateral agencies. Since economic diplomacy carries the spirit of dynamism inherent in world economy and facilitates the use of vast natural and human resource potentials of underdeveloped nations, Nepal has chosen to embark upon economic diplomacy since the 1990s. Since Nepal's economic diplomacy in the past has been run on an adhoc basic, reorientation of it in the spirit of current globalization has been an emergent need. It should engineer on developing our trade, tourism, industry and technology in a more dynamic way. The major thrust of our economic diplomacy should be the attraction of more foreign investments, production and export of goods which rich countries heavily demand, absorption of more tourists including the cultural ones, and promotion of Nepal as an international financial centre. Furthermore, there should be continuous efforts for creating foreign employment opportunities for Nepalese people, managing business and market access to Nepalese industrialists.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Bomb Kills 3 at Lahore's Imran Khan Hospital

BK1404090496 Hong Kong AFP in English 0839 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LAHORE, Pakistan, April 14 (AFP) — Three people were killed and seven wounded Sunday [14 April] when a bomb exploded at the Lahore cancer hospital founded by former cricket star Imran Khan, police said.

The attack at the Shaukat Khanum Hospital, named after Khan's mother, who died of cancer, came a day after Khan announced plans to form his own political party.

The blast set off panic in the hospital, where the Princess of Wales paid a fund raising visit in February. Police immediately sealed off the building.

A hospital spokesman told AFP that Khan was not in the hospital when the bomb went off.

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Damage to the hospice was severe, the spokesman said, adding that the lobby area had been largely destroyed.

Khan, who last June married Jemima Goldsmith, daughter of Franco-British tycoon Sir James Goldsmith, is a well-known figure on the international jet set.

Nicknamed the "Lion of Pakistan," the 43-year-old Khan is one of Pakistan's most popular figures after leading the country's cricket team to victory in the cricket World Cup in 1992.

He is considered by analysts to be a potential rival to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

He has also frequently accused Pakistan's politicians of being deeply corrupt and has particularly taken the Bhutto government to task, and accused the authorities of imposing blackout on him by the state media and television.

In December, Khan accused the government of attempting to "destroy" the cancer hospital because he was seen as a political threat, saying Bhutto's government had deliberately attempted to block funding and had attempted to discredit him.

"The greatest obstacle to the hospital is our own government," Khan said then.

"Ever since I have been perceived as some of kind of political threat to the government, the hospital has been targetted continuously, their fear being that the more successful the hospital is the more popular I will become. "

Khan said the hospital had been banned from appearing on state- run television while cigarette adverts are allowed, even though lung cancer is on the increase in Pakistan.

Khan said he had been told he could not collect public donatiors without official permission and last November was stopped from entering any government school or college.

Pakistan: Governor Blames 'Antisocial Elements' for Hospital Bombing

BK1404104696 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A powerful bomb exploded at the [Imran Khan's] Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital in Lahore this afternoon. According to police sources, the blast killed at least two persons and injured seven others. The blast also damaged a part of the hospital building. The investigation of the incident is continuing.

Lieutenant General Raja Saroop Khan, Retired, the Punjab governor, has expressed deep shock and grief at this tragic incident. Soon after hearing the report of the blast, the governor directed local authorities to extend the maximum amount of assistance possible to the injured. He also directed the authorities to report to him within 24 hours on the cause of the blast.

The governor said that antisocial elements and subversive elements are bent upon disrupting law and order and creating panic among the people, but they will not be able to succeed in their nefarious designs. He added that these elements will soon be suppressed and dealt with sternly. The governor appealed to the people to cooperate fully with local authorities and to keep a close watch on antisocial elements.

Pakistan: Bhutto Warns 'Terrorists' Involved in Hospital Bombing

BK1404160196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1500 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visited the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital in Lahore this evening to learn about the loss of life and property caused by a powerful bomb blast. She walked around various sections of the damaged blocks of the hospital and asked hospital authorities details concerning the blast in which six people were reported to have been killed and 34 others injured. Ten people were seriously injured. The prime minister was accompanied by Lieutenant General Raja Saroop Khan, Retired, who is the Punjab governor, and Senior Provincial Minister Malik Mushtaq Ahmad Awan.

After going around various affected areas of the hospital, the prime minister told newsmen that she is deeply shocked at the tragic death of six persons, four of whom died on the spot and two who succumbed to their injuries in the hospital. She expressed deep sympathy to the bereaved families and the injured. The prime minister condemned the tragic incident and said it is highly condemnable that some elements chose a hospital to carry out their terrorist act.

The government had already received some reports that these elements were bent upon disrupting law and order in the country, especially in the provincial capital of Lahore. She said this blast seems to be a link in a chain of subversive incidents that were carried out at the Dayal Singh College Library, S.C. College, and Pakistan People's Party office in Lahore. These incidents also include throwing firecrackers at the Pakistan Television's Lahore station and setting a police station on the Qaide Azam highway on fire.

The prime minister said the saboteurs wanted to reap political benefit from this blast at the hospital because

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they are aware that Imran Khan, the founder of hospital, is serving a good cause and is a world-renowned sports personality. The prime minister said the government recognizes Imran Khan's services to the cause of suffering humanity.

The prime minister stated categorically that her government will not tolerate subversive elements, and they will be dealt with sternly. She said some elements cannot watch the country strong and on the path of progress. She added that these elements want to introduce violence into politics, but the government will not allow their plans to be fulfilled.

Bhutto also said that a preliminary investigation has revealed that the bomb that exploded at the hospital weighed 5 kg and was planted in a trolley. She directed the provincial government to take measures against the infiltration of terrorists into Punjab from Karachi. In response to a question, she said there is no political confrontation between the government and Imran Khan because he is not a political personality. The government is extending all possible assistance and facilities to him because he is serving distressed humanity.

Answering another question, the prime minister said she has ordered a detailed investigation into the incident. She was told about the blast during her visit to Northwest Frontier Province, and she immediately went to Lahore to express her sympathy to the affected families. She said the injured will be provided every possible treatment. The prime minister visited Jinnah Hospital to enquire about the injured and directed the hospital authorities to provide free treatment to the injured.

Pakistan: Bhutto Reiterates Resolve To Eliminate Terrorism

BK1404153196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has reiterated her resolve to establish writ of law in the country and to work for the overall well-being and progress of the people. Addressing a meeting of the provincial council of the Pakistan People's Party in Peshawar today, she said her government is determined to eliminate terrorism from the country, and such elements would not be allowed to succeed in their nefarious designs to destabilize the country. She said they struggled against martial law and never compromised on principles. They would firmly deal with the internal and external enemies of the country and would not allow anyone to create chaos. They would protect the life and property of the people and completely eliminate the drug and Kalashnikov culture from the society.

About the Karachi situation, the prime minister said people of that city have been provided protection against the terrorists, who were now on the run. Turmoil and anarchy was created there by the antistate elements, and now the same people were creating law and order problem in the Punjab. She expressed her resolve to deal firmly with antistate elements in the Punjab as the government dealt with them in Karachi. The prime minister said sectarian elements would also be dealt with severely in the Punjab, who were trying to destabilize the society to fulfill their nefarious designs of dividing the country on sectarian basis. They are bent upon sabotaging the democratic process. She expressed her government's resolve to crush such elements.

The prime minister said government has barred the ministers from taking loans from the nationalized commercial banks and ordered to avoid any scandal like the cooperatives scandal and Taj Company scandal. She said the government would provide electricity to 15,000 villages during its tenure, while gas connections would be increased to 300 percent. The prime minister also said her government was undertaking several measures to eliminate polio from the country and increase the rate of literacy to 80 percent. The NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] chief minister, Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, provincial ministers, and high government functionaries also participated in the meeting. Earlier, the prime minister visited the residence of Khan Abdul Wali Khan in Charsada and offered condolence over the demise of his brother Khan Abdul Ghani Khan.

Pakistan: Bhutto Chairs Meeting in Lahore; Leaders Comment on Blast

BK1504044596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] While presiding over a high-level meeting in Lahore last night that focused on the law and order situation in Punjab, the prime minister said that the government would make every possible effort to protect the life and property of the people. Benazir Bhutto told the provincial authorities to take appropriate steps to improve the security situation. She said the provincial government should take serious note of terrorism and identify the elements involved in despicable crimes. She said the culprits should be given exemplary punishment. The meeting, which was held after her visit to Shaukat Khanum Memorial hospital, was also attended by Punjab Governor Retired Lieutenant General Raja Saroop Khan, Provincial Chief Minister Sardar Mohammad Arif Nakai, and Federal Interior Minister Nasirullah Khan Babar. At the hospital, the prime minister was briefed about the damages

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caused by the bomb blast, in which several lives were lost.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari strongly condemned the bomb blast in Shukat Khanum Memorial Hospital in Lahore and said the attack on the hospital is an extremely disgusting crime that cannot be tolerated in civilized society. Expressing his sympathies to the bereaved families and the injured, the president ordered the Punjab governor and the provincial government to utilize all its resources to arrest the culprits and give them exemplary punishment.

Regretting the loss of valuable lives in the bomb blast, Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Mohammad Arif Nakai strongly condemned this brutal act of terrorism. He directed the inspector general of police to submit a detailed report to him on the incident. He said the terrorists have now made Punjab, not Karachi, the target of their activities and they are trying to ruin the law and order situation. The chief minister also directed the inspector general of police to immediately arrest the culprits responsible for the bomb blast and give them exemplary punishment. He directed the provincial health department to provide every possible medical assistance to the injured free of charge.

Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad and Senator Chudhary Shujat Hussain visited the hospital and called the bomb blast a despicable act of terrorism against humanity. Federal Ministers Aftab Shaban Mirani and Nasirullah Khan Babar, Professor N.D. Khan, Nawab Yusuf Talpur, Retired Brigadier Azghar, Syed Khurshid Ahmad Makhdum Amin Fahim; ministers of state Raza Rabbani, Makhdum Shabuddin; and opposition leader in the Senate, Malik Mohammad Qasim; and the secretary general of Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo group also strongly condemned the bomb blast. They said through such acts of terrorism, the enemies of the country are trying to vitiate the law and order situation in Punjab.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chairman of Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir also condemned the bomb blast and said the government should take appropriate steps to eliminate terrorism in the country.

In a joint statement, Jamaat-i-Islami's chief Kazi Hussain Ahmad, deputy chief Chaudhary Rahmat Elahi, and other leaders of the party expressed deep sorrow and anguish over this tragic incident.

Pakistan: Interior Minister Addresses Issue of Terrorism in Karachi

BK1504073996 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Nasirullah Khan Babar has said 95.5 percent of Karachi's terrorism has been eliminated and that the remaining disturbances are being checked. In a statement in Islamabad, the interior minister said that armored personnel carriers had been necessary in Karachi, but that now, police constables are freely patrolling on foot. Babar said: We have offered to the terrorists to lay down their arms and in return we would drop our cases against these elements. Those in hiding have been asked to send their parents to police stations and if they are facing minor cases, they would be withdrawn. The interior minister also said they have received information that some terrorists have been trained in another country. He said the terrorism in Punjab is of a different nature. After fleeing Karachi, the terrorists now go to Lahore to hide. He said some terrorists are in the North-West Frontier Province and some may have even gone to Malaysia. Arresting those terrorists is the first priority.

Babar said he has briefed the British Government and showed them films on the terrorist activities by the Altaf Group. He said there is definitely is a foreign hand behind this situation just as Javed Langda was backed by India's Bharatiya Janata Party.

Responding to a query on declaring general amnesty in Karachi, he said that all terrorists cannot be pardoned. Regarding the allegations of extrajudicial killings in Karachi, he said the press had coined the term 'Grand Operation' and it gave vent to suspicions on extrajudicial killings. He said the government is setting up more courts for speedy trials of the detained culprits. He said two or three major culprits involved in the Salahuddin murder case have been killed and that it was probably Imran Farooq who ordered the killing of the late Salahuddin, or who had at least prepared a blueprint for his murder.

Pakistan: Foreign Minister Assures Mestiri of Country's Support for Peace

BK1104153796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The UN Secretary General's special representative to Afghanistan, Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, has had a meeting with the foreign minister, Mr. Asif Ahmad Ali, in Islamabad today and discussed the situation in Afghanistan.

Mr. Mestiri briefed the foreign minister about his meetings with Afghan leaders in Kabul and Jalalabad.

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Mr. Asif Ahmad Ali expressed Pakistan's full support to the ongoing UN efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

During the meeting, it was felt that a durable settlement of the Afghan problem has to be based on the transfer of power to a broad-based government based on the ground, ethnic, and demographic realities in Afghanistan. It was also agreed that Pakistan and the UN mission will continue to consult each other for facilitating a negotiated peaceful settlement of the Afghan crisis.

Pakistan: Editorial Urges 'Liberating' UN From U.S 'Clutches'

BK1304102896 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Apr 96 p 6

[Editorial: "American Meddling With UN Representatives"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is an old saying that those with evil intentions never run out of excuses to run down their opponents. This is indeed a reflection on human nature but in recent history no other country has earned such a distinction in levelling baseless allegations against its opponents than the United States. Pakistan, Iran, China, Libya and so many other countries have faced a series of unfounded accusations by Washington. Sudan has been on the list of the undesirable nations on the annals of Americans diplomatic history for quite sometime. This Muslim country has faced many crises created and abetted by the foreign countries; the latest invective directed against Khartoum is that one of its diplomats in the United Nations has been asked by the US government to leave the country within 48 hours because Uncle Sam feels that he is involved in some terrorist activities aimed at some attempts on the life of his blue-eyed boy in Egypt.

It is now too well-known to be doubted that the State Department has become an expert in manufacturing such rumours which carry credibility with its lackeys. Sudan is being painted as a terrorist country simply because it keeps on exposing the Western involvement in its southern part where a conspiracy was hatched to divide this nation. But it is indeed mind-boggling to see that even the diplomats representing their countries in the United Nations had to face the American wrath while the world body just watches and keeps quite over this highhandedness. The Americans will neither change their attitude nor they would stop this continued arm twisting of the United Nations. They do not pay their dues to the world body, do not respect its resolutions but are misusing the physical existence of this body on their territory. The United Nations pay enormous sums of money in rent, consultancies, secretarial jobs and residential accommodation to the Americans and yet is not free either in its deliberations or in its choice of personnel. In the past, we have seen many such instances where even dignitaries invited by the United Nations were denied entry into the United States simply because Washington does not like their faces.

It is time to seriously consider liberating the United Nations from the clutches of the United States. The government of the Federal Republic of Germany had offered space for the UN in Bonn free of charge which for some strange reasons was not accepted. It can be reconsidered so that the diplomats are not unnecessarily harassed by the hounds of CIA. This will also save the UN a sizeable amount of money which could be spent in development and peacekeeping activities. If it is too soon to say farewell to Manhattan island, then the representatives serving in the UN should not be subjected to the American pick and choose game and the Secretary General must take necessary steps in this direction, otherwise the UN for all practical purposes will be reduced to a division of the State Department.

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